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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
July 30, 2023

Covenant's Mission Statement

"To build a faithful community of joyful disciples."

Covenant's Values

Covenant is **biblical** by affirming the Bible as the authoritative Word of God,
connectional by affiliating with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA),
confessional by adhering to the Westminster Standards,
missional by seeking to spread the Gospel worldwide, and
relational by encouraging the church family to build community.

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?”
Isaiah 58:6, 7

Prelude **During the prelude selection, prepare for worship by reflecting on Isaiah 58:6,7 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship Isaiah 25:1, 9

[1] O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

[9] It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Invocation

Hymn *“O Day of Rest and Gladness”*

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light.
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful most bright.
On Thee the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing Holy, Holy, Holy, to the great God Triune.

On Thee, at the creation the light first had its birth;
on Thee, for our salvation, Christ rose from depths of earth;
on Thee our Lord, victorious the Spirit sent from heav’n
and thus on Thee, most glorious, a triple light was giv’n.

Thou art a port protected from storms that round us rise;
a garden intersected, with streams of Paradise;
Thou art a cooling fountain in life’s dry, dreary sand;
from Thee, like Pisgah’s mountain, we view our promised land.

Today on weary nations, the heav’nly manna falls:
to holy convocations, the silver trumpet calls,
where Gospel light is glowing with pure and radiant beams
and living water flowing, with soul refreshing streams.

New graces ever gaining, from this our day of rest,
we reach the rest remaining, to spirits of the blest.
to Holy Ghost be praises, to Father and to Son;
the church her voice upraises, to Thee, blest Three in One.

[1] "Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins.

[2] Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God.

[3] 'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.

[4] Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.

[5] Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?

[6] "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

[7] Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Congregational Prayer

Bob Tramel, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Jason Guenther, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

Hebrews 1:1-3

[1] Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

[2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

[3] He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Hymn

“O Great God”

O great God of highest heav'n occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme, conquer every rebel pow'r.
Let no vice or sin remain that resists Your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me, make me Yours forevermore.

I was blinded by my sin, had no ears to hear Your voice,
did not know Your love within, had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then Your Spirit gave me life, opened up Your Word to me
through the Gospel of Your Son, gave me endless hope and peace.

Help me now to live a life that's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul from the evils that I face.
You are worthy to be praised with my every thought and deed.
O great God of highest heav'n, glorify Your Name through me.
O great God of highest heav'n, glorify Your Name through me.

music and words by Bob Kauflin/2006 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI)
CCLI 209271

Corporate Confession of Sin

Lord Jesus, Give us a deeper repentance, a horror of sin,
a dread of its approach. Help us to flee it.
We have no Master but You, no law but Your will,
no delight but Yourself, no wealth but what You give,
no good but what You bless, no peace but what You bestow.
We are nothing but what You make of us, we have nothing
but what we receive from You.
We can be nothing but that grace adorns us.
Quarry us deep, dear Lord, and then fill us to overflowing
with living water. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Joel 2:12-13

[12] “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

[13] and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
 I am finding out the greatness, of Thy loving heart.
 Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee, and Thy beauty fills my soul,
 for by Thy transforming power, Thou hast made me whole.
 Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
 I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

O how great Thy loving kindness, vaster, broader than the sea!
 O how marvelous Thy goodness, lavished all on me!
 Yes, I rest in Thee, Beloved, know what wealth of grace is Thine,
 know Thy certainty of promise, and have made it mine.
 Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
 I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, I behold Thee as Thou art,
 and Thy love, so pure, so changeless, satisfies my heart;
 satisfies my deepest longings, meets, supplies its every need,
 ‘compasseth me round with blessings, Thine is love indeed!
 Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
 I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

Ever lift Thy face upon me, as I work and wait for Thee;
 resting ‘neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus, earth’s dark shadows flee.
 Brightness of my Father’s glory, sunshine of my Father’s face,
 keep me ever trusting, resting, fill me with Thy grace.
 Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
 I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

arr. Northland Community Church, Inc.
 David B. Hampton & Jean S. Pigot
 CCLI 209271

Scripture Reading

Mark 2:18-22

Pastor Reed

[18] Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?”

[19] And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

[20] The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.

[21] No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made.

[22] And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”

“A New Era of Gladness Not Sadness”

Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
melt the cloud of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“A New Era of Sadness Not Gladness”
Mark 2:18-22

I. Fasting Appropriate for the Old Era.

II. Fasting Inappropriate for the New Era.

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Mr. Jason Van Goor

Class of 2024
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Mr. Josh Sanford
Dr. Brandon Walser

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Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

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Mrs. Liz Baker, Choir Director
Mr. David Beuerman, Violinist
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

Mr. Mike Walsh, Pianist
Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Vocalist

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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