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Gospel Centered CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day

March 17, 2024

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. "For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." Revelation 7:17

Prelude	During the prelude selection, prepare for worship by reflecting on Revelation 7:17 printed above.
Life of the Church	
Call to Worship	Psalm 69:30-36
	[30] I will praise the name of God with a song; I will mag- nify him with thanksgiving. [31] This will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs. [32] When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive. [33] For the LORD hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners. [34] Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them. [35] For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah, and people shall dwell there and possess it; [36] the offspring of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall dwell in it.
Invocation	
Hymn	"God Is Known Among His People"
	God is known among His people, every mouth His praises fill; from of old He has established His abode on Zion's hill; there He broke the sword and arrow, bade the noise of war be still.
	Excellent and glorious are You, with Your trophies from the fray; You have slain the mighty warriors, wrapped in sleep of death are they; when Your anger once is risen, who can stand in that dread day?
	When from heav'n Your sentence sounded, all the earth in fear was still, while to save the meek and lowly God in judgment wrought His will; e'en the wrath of man shall praise You, Your designs it shall fulfil.
	Vow and pay unto Jehovah, Him your God forever own; all men, bring your gifts before Him worship Him, and Him alone; mighty kings obey and fear Him, princes bow before His throne. CCLI 209271

Matthew 7:15-20

[15] "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

[16] You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

[17] So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.

[18] A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

[19] Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

[20] Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Congregational Prayer

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Corporate Profession of Faith

Psalm 103:8-14

[8] The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

[9] He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

[10] He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

[11] For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

[12] as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

[13] As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

[14] For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

J. C. Baker, Ruling Elder

Mike Lieblich, Deacon

Hymn

"The Lord's My Shepherd"

The LORD's my Shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie in pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again; and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, e'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill; for Thou art with me, and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; my head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me: and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be. CCLI 209271

Corporate Confession of Sin

God of everlasting love, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with You and with one another.

We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience.

We have served our own self-interest instead of serving only You and Your people.

We have not loved You or loved our neighbor as You have commanded.

Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with You and one another.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 1:7-8

[7] In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, [8] which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight. "My Worth Is Not in What I Own"

My worth is not in what I own; not in the strength of flesh and bone. But in the costly wounds of love at the cross. My worth is not in skill or name; in win or lose, in pride or shame. But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.

refrain: I rejoice in my Redeemer, Greatest Treasure, Wellspring of my soul I will trust in Him, no other; my soul is satisfied in Him alone.

As summer flowers we fade and die: fame, youth and beauty hurry by. But life eternal calls to us at the cross. I will not boast in wealth or might, or human wisdom's fleeting light. But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross. **refrain**

Two wonders here that I confess; my worth and my unworthiness. My value fixed – my ransom paid at the cross. **refrain**

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Scripture

Micah 2:6-13

[6] "Do not preach"—thus they preach— "one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us."

[7] Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Has the LORD grown impatient? Are these his deeds? Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly?

[8] But lately my people have risen up as an enemy; you strip the rich robe from those who pass by trustingly with no thought of war.

[9] The women of my people you drive out from their delightful houses; from their young children you take away my splendor forever.

[10] Arise and go, for this is no place to rest, because of uncleanness that destroys with a grievous destruction.

[11] If a man should go about and utter wind and lies, saying, "I will preach to you of wine and strong drink," he would be the preacher for this people!

[12] I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob; I will gather the remnant of Israel; I will set them together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in its pasture, a noisy multitude of men.

[13] He who opens the breach goes up before them; they break through and pass the gate, going out by it. Their king passes on before them, the LORD at their head.

Hymn

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.

refrain: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love; when He had purged our stains, He took His seat above. **refrain**

His kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heav'n; the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n. **refrain**

He sits at God's right hand till all His foes submit, and bow to His command, and fall beneath His feet. **refrain**

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come, and take His servants up to their eternal home. **refrain**

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

<u>Sermon Outline</u> *"True Words for Itching Ears"* Micah 2:6-13

I. Confrontation with False Preaching (v.6-7, 11)

II. Correction from Faithful Preaching (v.8-10)

III. Consolation in a Future Promise (v.12-13)

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Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist Mrs. Valerie Hilliard, Vocalist

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