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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
March 22, 2026

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.

*“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*
Matthew 16:18

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship
by reflecting on Matthew 16:18 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Hebrews 10:19-25

[19] Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, [20] by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, [21] and since we have a great priest over the house of God, [22] let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. [23] Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. [24] And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, [25] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Invocation

Hymn

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great Name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

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The Sacrament of Baptism

Joseph Anthony Villegas
Covenant son of Arley and Marissa Villegas

Hymn

“Not What My Hands Have Done”

Not what my hands have done, can save my guilty soul;
not what my toiling flesh has borne, can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
Thy love to me O God, not mine, O Lord, to Thee,
can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;
Thy power alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.
No other work, save Thine, no other blood will do;
no strength, save that which is divine, can bear me safely thru.

I bless the Christ of God, I rest on love divine;
and with unfalt'ring lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt; I bury in His tomb
each thought of unbelief and fear, each ling'ring shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace; I trust His truth and might;
He calls me His, I call Him mine, my God, my joy, my light.
'Tis He who saveth me, and freely pardon gives;
I love because He loveth me, I live because He lives.

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“Trust His Word”

Choir

Jesus made each star in Heaven; He created earth and sea.
 He's the keeper of all knowledge, What is past and what will be.
 Yet He offers His great wisdom so you will not lose your way.
 Like a lamp it glows; every step it shows. You can know His will each day.
 He is not a distant stranger; He can be your closest friend.
 And He'll always listen closely when you share your heart with Him.
 Jesus walks the path beside you; He has been there all along,
 And He'll guide your feet when your step is weak, And your strength is almost gone.
 Trust his Word. All God's promises are true. Trust His Word.
 When your pathway disappears, When your joy gives way to tears, When you're
 plagued with doubts and fears, Trust His Word!

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I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell¹. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic² church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

¹ that is He remained under the power of death until the third day (WCFLC #50)

² “catholic” means universal

“Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word;
 just to rest upon His promise; just to know, “Thus saith the Lord.”

refrain: *Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
 Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!*

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust His cleansing blood;
 just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood!

refrain

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;
 just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace.

refrain

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
 and I know that Thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.

refrain

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Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against Your holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.
Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises
declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous,
and sober life; to the glory of His holy name. Amen.

Individual Prayer of Confession (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Titus 2:11-14

[11] For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, [12] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, [13] waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, [14] who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Hymn

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy pow'ful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be Thou still my strength and shield,
be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

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Scripture Reading

Ezra 4:1-5, 24

Sermon

“God’s Word Opposed”

Pastor Reed

Hymn

“The Church’s One Foundation”

The church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is His new creation by water and the Word:
from heav’n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.

Elect from ev’ry nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev’ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, “How long?”
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish. Her dear Lord to defend,
to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;
though there be those who hate her, and false sons in her pale,
against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
"God's Work Opposed"
Ezra 4:1-5, 24

I. The Realities of the Opposition.

II. The Relentlessness of the Opposition.

III. The Results of the Opposition.

1. Who are the enemies of Christ and His church in our day?
2. How do believers and the church face opposition by the enemies of Christ today?
3. What encouragement does Matthew 16:18, John 16:33 and Ephesians 6:10-18 provide for us today?

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Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

Mrs. Valerie Hilliard, Vocalist
Mrs. Katie Hughes, Pianist

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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