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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
March 5, 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.

“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among the peoples!”
Psalm 96:3

Prelude

During the prelude selection, prepare for worship by reflecting on Psalm 96:3 printed above.

Life of the Church and Introduction of Conference Participants

Rev. Julian Russell, Conference Speaker
Peter and Jenny Boling - MTW/Mexico
Jamie and Jacki Gildard - MTW/France
Tom and Karen Mirabella - MTW/Japan

Call to Worship

Psalm 133

*¹ Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!
² It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!
³ It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.*

Invocation

Flag Ceremony Processional (Explanation pg. 9)

Hymn

“Christ For the World We Sing”

Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring
with loving zeal; the poor and them that mourn,
the faint and overborne, sin-sick and sorrow-worn,
whom Christ doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring
with fervent pray'r; the wayward and the lost,
by restless passions tossed, redeemed at countless cost
from dark despair.

Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring
with one accord; with us the work to share,
with us reproach to dare, with us the cross to bear,
for Christ our Lord.

Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring
with joyful song; the newborn souls whose days,
reclaimed from error's ways, inspired with hope and praise
to Christ belong.

- ¹ Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!*
- ² Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.*
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!*
- ⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.*
- ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.*
- ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!*
- ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!*
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!*
- ¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."*
- ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;*
- ¹² let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy*
- ¹³ before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.*

Congregational Prayer

Jim Lewis, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

"If My People Will Pray"

Choir

If My people which are called by My name
shall humble themselves, shall humble themselves and pray.

If My people which are called by My name
shall seek My face and turn from their wicked ways
then will I hear from heaven, then will I hear from heaven.

Then will I hear and will forgive, forgive their sin.

If My people which are called by My name shall humble themselves,
shall humble themselves and pray I will forgive their sin.

I will forgive their sin, I will forgive their sin and heal their land.

If My people which are called by My name shall humble themselves,
shall humble themselves, shall humble themselves, and pray.

Corporate Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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 to hell. 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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

“Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare”
(stanzas 1-3)

Come, my soul, thy suit prepare: Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He himself has bid thee pray, therefore will not say thee nay;
therefore will not say thee nay.

Thou art coming to a King, large petitions with thee bring;
for His grace and pow'r are such, none can ever ask too much;
none can ever ask too much.

With my burden I begin: “Lord, remove this load of sin;
let Thy blood, for sinners spilt, set my conscience free from guilt;
set my conscience free from guilt.

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Corporate Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father,
You have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have not loved You from the heart
nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.
You have shown us mercy, but we have been harsh
and unforgiving.
You show love to all, but we show favor only to our friends.
Our hearts are corrupt and we are guilty.
Please forgive us and cleanse us from our sin.
Help us by Your Spirit to reflect Your love and kindness.
In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 2:9-12

⁹ *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

¹⁰ *Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

¹¹ *Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.*

¹² *Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

Hymn

“Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare”
(stanzas 4-6)

Lord, I come to Thee for rest, take possession of my breast;
there Thy blood-bought right maintain, and without a rival reign;
and without a rival reign.

“While I am a pilgrim here, let Thy love my spirit cheer;
as my Guide, my Guard, my Friend, lead me to my journey's end;
lead me to my journey's end.

“Show me what I have to do, ev'ry hour my strength renew:
let me live a life of faith, let me die Thy people's death;
let me die Thy people's death.”

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Scripture

Colossians 4:2-3

² *Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*

³ *At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—*

Sermon

“Pray with Us”

Reverend Julian Russell

Flag Recessional

Collection of Faith Promise Pledges

Hymn

“Arise, O God, and Shine”

Arise, O God, and shine in all Thy saving might,
and prosper each design to spread Thy glorious light;
let healing streams of mercy flow
that all the earth Thy truth may know.

Bring distant nations near to sing Thy glorious praise;
let every people hear and learn Thy holy ways.
Reign, mighty God, assert Thy cause,
and govern by Thy righteous laws.

Put forth Thy glorious power, that everyone may see
and earth present her store, in converts born to Thee.
God, our own God, His Church will bless,
and fill the world with righteousness.

To God, the only Wise, the one immortal King,
let hallelujahs rise, from every living thing;
let all that breathe, on every coast,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Notes
“Pray with Us”
Colossians 4:2-3

**Reverend Julian Russell
(bio from MTW website)**

Julian and Christiana grew up in Nassau, Bahamas. Julian is a teaching elder in the PCA. He completed both his D.Min. and Th.M. at Covenant Seminary, and his M.Div. at Reformed Theological Seminary. Christiana completed her M.A. in teaching at Christian Brothers University and her B.Sc. at the University of Minnesota.

This couple has sensed the Lord's call to more actively participate in extending His kingdom, specifically through church planting in their place of birth. The Lord has burdened Julian and Christiana to see Bahamians develop a more robust devotion to their Savior. Operation World lists four prayer challenges for the Bahamas: materialism, a low Christian commitment coupled with widespread nominalism, the increasing alienation of the younger Bahamians, and a growing Haitian diaspora.

The Russells want to glorify the Lord by planting a healthy church that focuses on: instituting an indigenous leadership development plan; incorporating formal theological training; establishing transformational mercy ministries; integrating medical missions and disaster preparedness; and facilitating short-term mission trips.

The land of sun, sand, and sea desperately awaits the Son of Man to shine more brightly through the hearts of Bahamians!

Flag Ceremony

The flags displayed represent countries where members of our missionary field serve. These flags remind us to pray for our missionaries and the countries in which they serve. We are also reminded by these flags that we are to be "world Christians."
Matthew 28:18-20

MEMBERS OF SESSION

RULING ELDERS

Class of 2023
Mr. Bruce Hurlbut
Mr. Carl Monroe
Mr. Jason Van Goor

Class of 2024
Mr. Jim Lewis
Mr. Josh Sanford
Dr. Brandon Walser

Class of 2025
Mr. Dan Butkowski
Dr. Bob Tramel

TEACHING ELDERS

Rev. Dr. Tim J. Reed, Senior Pastor
Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

BOARD OF DEACONS

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Mr. Scott Freydl
Dr. David Matlock
Mr. Jeff Rooker

Class of 2024
Mr. David Beuerman
Dr. Ken Knecht
Mr. Kurt Smith

Class of 2025
Mr. Peter Bogaards
Dr. Jonathan Goodwin
Mr. Jason Guenther

STAFF

Mr. Ben Russ, Bookkeeper
Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant

MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS

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

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

COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES

Paul & Connie Backstrom, Bentonville
Peter & Jenny Boling, Mexico
Dan & Nancy Butkowski, Little Rock
Scott & Kathy Craig, Mexico
Roger & Laura Dye, South Carolina
Del & Hazel Farris, MNA Ministry to State
Jamie & Jacki Gildard, France
Rob & Jenny Ilderton, England

Darlene Johnson, Japan
Tom & Karen Mirabella, Japan
Pete & Ruth Mitchell, France
Jim & Karan Romaine, New York City
Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)
Will & Martha, International
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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