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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
May 15, 2022

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 families to build community.

*"And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness
to have the full assurance of hope until the end"*

Hebrews 6:11

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship
by reflecting on Hebrews 6:11 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1-5

*¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!*

² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

³ who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

*⁴ who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with
steadfast love and mercy,*

*⁵ who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed
like the eagle's.*

Invocation

Hymn

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is Your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting You are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Your sight are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood, with all their lives and cares,
are carried downward by Your flood, and lost in following years.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
O be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

- 36 “Now therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, ‘It is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine, and by pestilence’:*
- 37 Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety.*
- 38 And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*
- 39 I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.*
- 40 I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.*
- 41 I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.*

Congregational Prayer

Bruce Hurlbut, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

“Come, All Ye Pining, Hungry Poor”

Choir

Lord, we adore Thy boundless grace. The heights and depths unknown,
of pardon, life, and joy, and peace, in Thy beloved Son.

refrain: *Come, all ye pining, hungry poor, the Savior’s bounty taste;
behold a never-failing store for ev’ry willing guest.*

O wondrous gifts of love divine, Dear Source of ev’ry good;
Jesus, in thee what glories shine! How rich Thy flowing blood!

refrain

Here shall your num’rous wants receive a free, a full supply;
He has unmeasured bliss to give, and joys that never die.

refrain

Anne Steele (1716-1778)/Bryan T. Murphy
CCLI 209271

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Kurt Smith, Deacon

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

Hymn

"Blessed Assurance"

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

***refrain:** This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

refrain

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

refrain

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Corporate Confession of Sin

O my Savior, help me.
I am slow to learn, prone to forget, and weak to climb;
I am in the foothills when I should be on the heights;
I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days,
my poverty of love, my sloth in the heavenly race,
my sullied conscience, my wasted hours,
my unspent opportunities.
I am blind while the light shines around me:
take the scales from my eyes,
grind to dust my heart of unbelief.
Make it my highest joy to study you,
meditate on you, gaze on you,
sit like Mary at your feet,
lean like John on your breast,
appeal like Peter to your love,
count like Paul all things but dung.
I believe, help my unbelief. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (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

“He Will Hold Me Fast”

(sheet music pgs. 9-11)

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

chorus: *He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

chorus

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

chorus

- 5:11 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.*
- 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,*
- 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.*
- 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*
- 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,*
- 2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.*
- 3 And this we will do if God permits.*
- 4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,*
- 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,*
- 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.*
- 7 For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.*
- 8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.*
- 9 Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.*
- 10 For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.*
- 11 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end,*
- 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

“Encouraging Perseverance”

Hymn

“Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”

Jesus I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee
Destitute, despised, forsaken Thou from hence my all shalt be
Perish every fond ambition, all I’ve sought or hoped or known
Yet how rich is my condition, God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me they have left my Savior too
Human hearts and looks deceive me, Thou art not like them untrue
Oh while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love and might
Foes may hate and friends disown me, show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me, twill but drive me to Thy breast
Life with trials hard may press me, Heaven will bring me sweeter rest
Oh ‘tis not in grief to harm me, while Thy love is left to me
Oh ‘twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Go then earthly fame and treasure, come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service pain is pleasure, with Thy favor loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father, I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl and clouds may gather, all must work for good to me.

Soul then know thy full salvation rise o’er sin and fear and care.
Joy to find in every station, something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee, think what Father’s smiles are thine
Think that Jesus died to win thee, child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory, armed by faith and winged by prayer.
Heaven’s eternal day’s before thee, God’s own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, soon shall pass thy pilgrim days.
Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“Encouraging Perseverance”
Hebrews 5:11- 6:12

I. A Stern Rebuke.

II. A Sober Challenge.

III. A Sincere Encouragement.

He Will Hold Me Fast (When I Fear My Faith Will Fail)

Intro from 'Finlandia' by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)
Lyrics vv. 1-2 by Ada Habershon (1861-1918)
Alt words vv. 1-2, lyrics v.3, and Music by Matt Merker
Orchestrated by Paul Campbell

Intro 1

Freely

Violin: Solo / Piano: simple chords

N.C. D6 A/C# Bm A Bm/D D/F# E/G# A D6 A/C#

(optional cut to Intro 2 at b.24)

6 Bm A/C# D6 D/F# E/G# A 10 A A/G# F#m C#m

12 Bm A/C# D6 A/E D Bm6 C# A A/G#

18 F#m C#m Bm A/C# D6 A/E Esus E

Intro 2

Full of Hope (♩ = 66)

Vln OUT / Piano SOLO

Ama7 A/C# Dadd9 Ama7 A/C# Dadd9

V.1 Piano: cont. simple

28 A A/C# D D E A A A/C# D

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; When the tempt-er would pre - vail,

36 D E A F#m E/G# A D D C# F#m

He will hold me fast. I could nev-er keep my hold Through life's fear - ful path;

Vocal/Rhythm

40 F#m E/G# A/C# D D E A

For my love is oft - en cold; He must hold me fast.

45 **Ch.1** S.A.T. + Synth (Warm Pad) sust. D E F#m F#m E/G# A A Bm7 A/C#

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast; For my Sa - vior loves me

50 **L.1** As Intro 2 D D E A^{ma7} A/C# Dadd9 A^{ma7} A/C#

so, He will hold me fast.

55 **V.2** Dadd9 A A/C# D D E A

2. Those He saves are His de - light, Christ will hold me fast;

60 **64** A A/C# D D E A F#m E/G# A/C#

Pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, He will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be

65 D D C# F#m F#m E/G# A/C# D D E

lost; His Prom - is - es shall last; Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me

71 **Build to Ch.2** + Cymbal Roll **Ch.2** + Gospel Choir; Oohs (or S.A.T.) A D E F#m F#m E/G#

fast. He will hold me fast, He will hold me

76 **Choir: lyrics (unis.)** **Choir OUT** A A Bm7 A/C# D D E

fast; For my Sa - vior loves me so, He will hold me

Vocal/Rhythm

L.2 As before

80 *A*ma7 *A/C#* *D*add9 *A*ma7 *A/C#* *D*add9

fast.

V.3 SOLO Piano: simple and sparse

84 *F#m*⁹ *D* *D/F#* *E/G#* *A* *F#m*⁹ *D*

3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast; Justice has been satisfied;

92 + Bass

90 *D* *E* *A* *F#m* *E/G#* *A/C#* *D* *D* *C#* *F#m*

He will hold me fast. Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast

Build to Ch.3 **Cymbal Roll**

96 *F#m* *E/G#* *A/C#* *D* *D* *E* *A*

'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

Ch.3 + Choir with lyrics (SAT)

101 *D* *E* *F#m* *F#m* *E/G#* *A* *A* *Bm*⁷ *A/C#*

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast; For my Savior loves me

Build to Ch.4 **+ Cymbal Roll** **Ch.4**

106 *D* *D* *E* *A* *D* *E*

so, He will hold me fast. He will hold me

111 *F#m* *F#m* *E/G#* *A* *A* *Bm*⁷ *A/C#*

fast, He will hold me fast; For my Savior loves me

Slower
rit. e dim. **Band + Choir OUT / Piano + vocal only** **End** **Violin: melody / Piano: simple chords**

115 *D* *D* *E* *A* *Bm*⁹ *A/C#* *D* *A/C#* *Bm*⁷ *E*^{7sus} *A*

so, He will hold me fast.

He Will Hold Me Fast (When I Fear My Faith Will Fail)
(Key of A)

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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