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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
May 3, 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.

*“It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.
It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.”
Psalm 118:8-9*

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship
by reflecting on Psalm 118:8-9 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 146:1-7, 10

[1] Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! [2] I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. [3] Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. [4] When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. [5] Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, [6] who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; [7] who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free. [10] The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Hymn

“Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah”

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glor'ous praises, of my God thru all my days.
Put no confidence in princes, nor for help on man depend;
He shall die, to dust returning, and his purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses Israel's God to be his aid;
He is blest whose hope of blessing on the Lord his God has stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created, seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression, righteousness He will maintain.

Food He daily gives the hungry, sets the mourning pris'ner free,
Raises those bowed down with anguish, makes the sightless eyes to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous, and the stranger He befriends,
Helps the fatherless and widow, judgment on the wicked sends.

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glor'ous praises of my God thru all my days.
Over all God reigns forever, thru all ages He is King;
Unto Him, thy God, O Zion, joyful hallelujahs sing.

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Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

William Fennell, Ruling Elder

Congregational Prayer

William Fennell, Ruling Elder

“One Day, When We All Get to Heaven”

Choir

One day You'll make everything new, Jesus, one day You will bind every wound,
the former things shall all pass away; no more tears.
One day You'll make sense of it all, Jesus. One day every question resolved,
every anxious thought left behind, no more fear.
When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all see Jesus we'll sing and shout the victory.
One day we will see face to face, Jesus. Is there a greater vision of grace;
and in a moment, we shall be changed on that day.
And one day we'll be free, free indeed, Jesus, one day all this struggle will cease,
and we will see Your glory revealed on that day.
And when we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be,
when we all see Jesus we'll sing and shout the victory.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Scott Freydl, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 1

What is your only comfort in life and death?

That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life
and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for
all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the
power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without
the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; in-
deed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by
His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me
heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Hymn

“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.
It makes the wounded spirit whole, and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary rest.
Dear Name! the Rock on which I build, my Shield and hiding place,
my never-failing treas'ry filled with boundless stores of grace.
Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring.
Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.
Till then I would Thy love proclaim with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of Thy Name refresh my soul in death.

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Scripture Reading

Ezra 8

Sermon

“A Safe Journey”

Pastor Reed

Invitation to The Lord's Supper

Hymn

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One Who suffered there for me:
and from my smitten heart with tears two wonders I confess,
the wonders of His glorious love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, the shadow for my abiding place:
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;
my sinful self, my only shame; my glory all the cross.

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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.

And grant, O merciful Father, for His sake;
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous,
and sober life; to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Individual Prayer of Confession (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Titus 3:4-7

[4] But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, [5] he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, [6] whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, [7] so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Prayer of Blessing

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn

“Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!”

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul;
friends may fail me, foes assail me, He, my Savior, makes me whole.

refrain: *Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah, what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.*

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in Him;
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, He, my strength, my vict'ry wins.

refrain

Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll,
even when my heart is breaking, He, my comfort, helps my soul.

refrain

Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,
storms about me, night o'er-takes me, He, my pilot, hears my cry.

refrain

Jesus! I do now receive Him, more than all in Him I find,
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am His, and He is mine.

refrain

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“A Safe Journey”
Ezra 8

I. The Register of Those Setting Out on the Journey.

II. The Necessity of Prayer for the Journey.

III. The Need for Integrity for the Journey.

IV. The Response of Those Completing the Journey.

[1] What is significant about the names listed in Ezra 2:3-14 and those found in 8:3-14 and how does this encourage parents and the church to raise up our children in the future and admonition of the Lord?

[2] Why did Ezra proclaim a fast and seek the Lord in prayer in 8:21, 23? Refer to 8:22.

[3] Why did Ezra entrust the offerings for the house of God to the priests in 8:24-30, especially verse 28? What do we learn about the importance of integrity?

[4] How did the exiles who returned with Ezra express their gratitude to God for a safe journey (see 8:31-36)?

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One Covenant Drive • Little Rock, AR 72211 • 501.228.5903
cpc@covenantpca.com • www.covenantpca.com
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America