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Gospel Centered CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
November 15, 2020

Covenant's Mission Statement
Covenant seeks to glorify God by
<u>Establishing</u> Disciples biblically,
<u>Engaging</u> Culture redemptively,
<u>Expanding</u> Christ's Church faithfully.

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.

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18

Prelude

During the prelude, prepare for worship by reflecting on 1 Corinthians 1:18 printed above.

Welcome

Call to Worship Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Invocation

Hymn "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

(sheet music pgs. 9 & 10)

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

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place:

women: I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;

men: I ask no other, than his face

women: content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;

men: content to know, no gain nor loss

my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

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"The Power of the Cross"

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then
nailed to a cross of wood.

chorus: This the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us. Took the blame, bore the wrath we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh to see the pain written on Your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin. Every bitter thought, every evil deed crowning Your bloodstained brow.

chorus

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life.
'Finished!' the victory cry.

chorus

Oh to see my name written in the wounds, for through Your suffering I am free.

Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live won through Your selfless love!

final chorus: This the power of the cross Son of God --- slain for us. What a love, what a cost we stand forgiven at the cross.

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend / CCLI 209271

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 53

Dan Butkowski, Ruling Elder

- ¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.
- ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
- ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

- ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.
- ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?
- ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.
- Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
- ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.
- ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Congregational Prayer

Dan Butkowski, Ruling Elder

Corporate Profession of Faith

This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold fast:

That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God.

Saviour I come, quiet my soul, remember Redemption's hill, Where Your blood was spilled, for my ransom. Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.

Lead me to the cross, where Your love poured out.
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.
Rid me of myself, I belong to You.
Oh, lead me, lead me to the cross.

You were as I, tempted and tried, human, The word became flesh, bore my sin in death. Now, You're risen.

> Ev'rything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.

Lead me to the cross, where Your love poured out.
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.
Rid me of myself, I belong to You.
Oh, lead me, lead me to the cross.

Lead me to the cross, where Your love poured out.
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.
Rid me of myself, I belong to You.
Oh, lead me, lead me to the cross.

words and music by Brooke Fraser/CCLI 209271

Corporate Confession of Sin

Holy Father, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns.

We have not sought to do your will with our whole hearts. We have not lived as grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us.

Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole. Set us free from our sin, and restore us to the joy of your salvation now and forever. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon Colossians 2:11-15

¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

- ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,
- ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
- ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

*Hymn

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God: all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down: did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

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*Scripture Reading

Mark 8:31-9:1

- 8:31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.
- 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
- 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."
- 34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
- 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.
- 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?
- 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?
- ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."
- 9:1 And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."

*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 "The Cost of Discipleship" Mark 8:31-9:1

I.	A Costly Cross.	
II.	A Scandalous Cross.	

III. A Personal Cross.

BENEATH THE CROSS

Words by Elizabeth C. Clephane Music by Christopher Miner





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Lead Me To The Cross

Words and Music by Brooke Fraser





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