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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day

October 11, 2020

Covenant's Mission Statement

*Covenant seeks to glorify God by
Establishing Disciples biblically,
Engaging Culture redemptively,
Expanding 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.*

*“Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’
If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word,
they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account
of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.”*

John 15:20-21

**During the prelude, prepare for worship by
reflecting on John 15:20-21 printed above.**

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 8

- ¹ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.*
- ² Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.*
- ³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,*
- ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*
- ⁵ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.*
- ⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,*
- ⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,*
- ⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*
- ⁹ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Invocation

Hymn

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of your God, who from His altar call;
extol the Stem of Jesse’s rod, and crown Him Lord of all;
extol the Stem of Jesse’s rod, and crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel’s chosen race, ye ransomed of the fall,
hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all;
hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget the wormwood and the gall,
go, spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all;
go, spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all.

Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
to Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all;
to Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.

O that, with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall;
we’ll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all;
we’ll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all.

“For All the Saints”

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be for ever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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*Scripture

Daniel 3:8-26

Kevin Breniman, Ruling Elder

⁸ Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews.

⁹ They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever!”

¹⁰ You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image.

¹¹ And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace.

¹² There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?"

15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.^[c]

18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated.

20 And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics,^[d] their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace.

22 Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

25 He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.

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; indeed, 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.

“Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound-
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved!
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we've first begun.

Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty God, we confess that we have exchanged the truth about You for a lie; we have worshiped and served created things rather than You, our loving Creator. Because of this our lives are empty, our relationships are broken and we deserve Your judgment. Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. By Your Spirit, help us to trust in You and live for Your glory. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.

Individual Prayer of Confession (silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 32:1-2

*¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.*

*² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts
no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

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 that 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 for evermore;
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 the 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.

- 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:*
- 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*
- 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*
- 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*
- 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*
- 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*
- 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*
- 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- 11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.*
- 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Sermon

“Persecution, Expect It”

Pastor Reed

Hymn

“Faith of Our Fathers!”

Faith of our fathers! living still in spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear God's glorious Word:

Refrain: Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark, were still in heart and conscience free;
and blest would be their children's fate if they, like them, should die for Thee:

Refrain

Faith of our fathers! God's great pow'r shall draw all nations unto Thee;
and through the truth that comes from God His people shall indeed be free:

Refrain

Faith of our fathers! we will love both friend and foe in all our strife,
and preach thee, too, as love knows how by witness true and virtuous life:

Refrain

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*Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“Persecution, Expect It”
Matthew 5:2-12

I. The Reality of Persecution.

II. The Nature of Persecution.

III. The Reality of Persecution.

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Tom & Karen Mirabella, Japan
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Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)
Will & Martha, International
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

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