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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
October 29, 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.

*For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith,
as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

Romans 1:17

Prelude

During the prelude selection, prepare for worship by reflecting on Romans 1:17 printed above.

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Invocation

Hymn

*"Reformation Hymn"
(to the tune "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart")*

The Word of God alone has final authority.
Our conscience captive to His truth
not to men's thoughts or creeds.
God's Word (God's Word) alone (alone)
God's Word has authority.

It is in Christ alone that we have been redeemed.
Though all of us were once sin's slave
Christ's blood has set us free!
In Christ (in Christ) alone (alone)
in Christ we have been redeemed.

It is by grace alone that we are freely saved.
For all our works could never earn
the priceless gift God gave.
By grace (by grace) alone (alone)
by grace we are freely saved.

It is by faith alone that we are justified.
By trusting in Christ's work for us
we're righteous in God's sight.
By faith (by faith) alone (alone)
by faith we are justified.

The glory of God alone, our prize and passion be.
For we were made to bring Him praise
now and eternally.
We live (we live) to praise (to praise)
the glory of God alone.

Corporate Confession of Sin

O Father, we are gathered before You,
the Maker of Heaven and Earth, whose chosen dwelling place
is with the broken and contrite, to confess that
we have sinned in thought and word and deed;
we have not loved You with all our heart and soul,
we have not loved You with all our mind and strength;
we have not even loved our neighbor as ourselves.

In Your mercy, deepen our sorrow for the wrong we have done
and for the good we have left undone, so that we may hate our sin
with a holy hatred.

But, please Father, do not leave us in sorrow. With You, O Lord,
there is forgiveness. In Your mercy, restore the joy of our salvation;
so that we may love You with a holy love. 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.

Corporate Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of
his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very
God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by
whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down
from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and
was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suf-
fered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the
Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of
the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living
and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds
from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in
one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for
the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and
the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

“The Staff of Faith”
by Craig Courtney

Choir

My faith, it is an oaken staff, the trav'lers well-loved aid;
my faith, it is a weapon stout, the soldier's trusty blade.
I'll travel on, and still be stirred by prayerful thought or holy Word.
By all my peril undeterred, a soldier pilgrim staid.
I have a Guide, and in His steps when travelers have trod,
if there beneath was flinty rock or yielding grassy sod,
they cared not, but with force unspent,
unmoved by pain they onward went,
unstayed by pleasures, still they bent their zealous course to God.
My faith is an oaken staff, O let me on it lean!
My faith, it is a trusty sword, may falsehood find it keen!
Thy spirit Lord, to me impart, O make me what Thou ever art,
O patient and courageous heart, as all true saints have been.
How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said.
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled!
My faith, it is an oaken staff, the traveler's well-loved aid.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Jonathan Goodwin, Deacon

Explanation of the Service

God, A Mighty Fortress

Reading of Scripture

Psalm 46

Jim Lewis, Ruling Elder

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*
- ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,*
- ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.*
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.*
- ⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.*
- ⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.*
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*
- ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.*
- ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.*
- ¹⁰ “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”*
- ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Hymn

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.

refrain: *Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

Jesus, the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love;
when He had purged our stains, He took His seat above.

refrain

His kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n.

refrain

He sits at God's right hand till all His foes submit,
and bow to His command, and fall beneath His feet.

refrain

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,
and take His servants up to their eternal home.

refrain

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Christ Jesus...Lord Sabaoth

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 31:1-6

Bob Tramel, Ruling Elder

¹ *Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the LORD!*

² *And yet he is wise and brings disaster; he does not call back his words, but will arise against the house of the evildoers and against the helpers of those who work iniquity.*

³ *The Egyptians are man, and not God, and their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD stretches out his hand, the helper will stumble, and he who is helped will fall, and they will all perish together.*

⁴ *For thus the LORD said to me, “As a lion or a young lion growls over his prey, and when a band of shepherds is called out against him he is not terrified by their shouting or daunted at their noise, so the LORD of hosts will come down to fight on Mount Zion and on its hill.*

⁵ *Like birds hovering, so the LORD of hosts will protect Jerusalem; he will protect and deliver it; he will spare and rescue it.”*

⁶ *Turn to him from whom people have deeply revolted, O children of Israel.*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

Hymn

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All - here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on Him was laid - here in the death of Christ I'll live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am His and He is mine - bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death - this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
till He returns or calls me home - here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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The Prince of Darkness Grim

Reading of Scripture

Revelation 20:4-10

Carl Monroe, Ruling Elder

4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. 7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. 9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, 10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Hymn

“It Is Well with My Soul”

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

refrain: *It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed His own blood for my soul.

refrain

My sin - O the bliss of this glorious thought! -
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

refrain

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
"Even so" - it is well with my soul.

refrain

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That Word...Abideth Still

Reading of Scripture

Psalm 119:97-106

Dan Butkowski, Ruling Elder

⁹⁷ Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸ Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. ⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. ¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. ¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. ¹⁰² I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. ¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! ¹⁰⁴ Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ¹⁰⁶ I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules.

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and pow’r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,
and He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow’rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is for ever.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Notes

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

Class of 2023
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

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
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
Julian & Christiana Russell, Bahamas
Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)
Will & Martha, International
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America