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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day

October 31, 2021

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.

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

Psalm 95:6, 7

Invocation

6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Hymn

"Let Your Kingdom Come"

Your glorious cause, O God, engages our hearts.
May Jesus Christ be known wherever we are.
We ask not for ourselves, but for Your renown.
The cross has saved us so we pray, Your Kingdom come.

chorus: Let Your Kingdom come, let Your will be done,
So that everyone might know Your Name.
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth,
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done. Let Your Kingdom come.

Give us Your strength, O God, and courage to speak.
Perform Your wondrous deeds through those who are weak.
Lord, use us as You want, whatever the test.
By grace we'll preach Your Gospel till our dying breath.

chorus

Sovereign Grace Praise (BMA) / CCLI 209271

Pastoral Prayer

Corporate Confession of sin

Father in heaven, we thank you for the freedom you have given us through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves. Instead of living like you delight in us, we avoid you in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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.**

⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Hymn

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with Thee:
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
as Thou hast been Thou for ever wilt be.

refrain: *Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided -
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

refrain

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Tom Fox, Deacon

“The Five Solas of the Reformation”

Introduction

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:89-112
2 Timothy 3:16-17
2 Peter 1:20-21

Kevin Breniman, Ruling Elder

Psalm 119:89 Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. ⁹⁰Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. ⁹¹By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants. ⁹²If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. ⁹³I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life. ⁹⁴I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts. ⁹⁵The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider your testimonies. ⁹⁶I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad. ⁹⁷Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. ⁹⁹I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. ¹⁰⁰I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. ¹⁰¹I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. ¹⁰²I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. ¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! ¹⁰⁴Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. ¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ¹⁰⁶I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. ¹⁰⁷I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word! ¹⁰⁸Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules.

109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. 111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. 112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Explanation of “**Sola Scriptura**”

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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Scripture Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9
1 Timothy 2:5-6
Galatians 4:4-7

J. C. Baker, Ruling Elder

Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. 5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:

6 “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. 8 I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. 9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Explanation of “**Solus Christus**”

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.

by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend/CCLI 209271

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 55:1-3
Ephesians 2:1-10

Bruce Hurlbut, Ruling Elder

Isaiah 55:1 “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Ephesians 2:1-10 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Explanation of “**Sola Gratia**”

Hymn

“His Mercy Is More”

What love could remember, no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

chorus: Praise the Lord His mercy is more
stronger than darkness New every morn’
our sins they are many, His mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

chorus

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood ‘neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

chorus

(2nd time chorus) Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness New every morn’
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

words and music by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa
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Scripture Reading

Genesis 15:6
Romans 3:21-26
Galatians 3:20-21

Jeff Nissen, Ruling Elder

Genesis 15:6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Galatians 3:20 Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. ²¹ Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.

Explanation of “**Sola Fidé**”

Hymn

“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”

My faith has found a resting place, from guilt my soul is freed;
I trust the ever living One, His wounds for me shall plead.

refrain: *I need no other argument,
I need no other plea,
it is enough that Jesus died,
and that He died for me.*

Enough for me that Jesus saves, this ends my fear and doubt;
a sinful soul I come to Him, He'll never cast me out.

refrain

My heart is leaning on the Word, the written Word of God:
salvation by my Savior's name, salvation through His blood.

refrain

My great physician heals the sick, the lost He came to save;
for me His precious blood He shed, for me His life He gave.

refrain
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Scripture Reading

Psalm 24
Romans 11:36
1 Corinthians 10:31

Jerry Potts, Ruling Elder

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ² for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. ³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. ⁵ He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. ⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. ⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. ⁸ Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! ⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. ¹⁰ Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

Romans 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Explanation of “**Soli Deo Gloria**”

Closing 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.

music by Messiter/lyrics by J. Todd Murray/CCLI 209271

Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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