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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
October 8, 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.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

Prelude

During the prelude selection, prepare for worship by reflecting on Philippians 2:9-11 printed above.

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 91:1-2

[1] He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

[2] I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Invocation

Hymn

"Arise, O God, and Shine"

Arise, O God, and shine in all Thy saving might,
and prosper each design to spread Thy glorious light;
let healing streams of mercy flow
that all the earth Thy truth may know.

Bring distant nations near to sing Thy glorious praise;
let every people hear and learn Thy holy ways.
Reign, mighty God, assert Thy cause,
and govern by Thy righteous laws.

Put forth Thy glorious power, that everyone may see
and earth present her store, in converts born to Thee.
God, our own God, His Church will bless,
and fill the world with righteousness.

To God, the only Wise, the one immortal King,
let hallelujahs rise, from every living thing;
let all that breathe, on every coast,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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CCLI 209271

[22] Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

[23] On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest.

[24] And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

Congregational Prayer

Dan Butkowski, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

"We Shall Rise"

words and music by Stan Pethel

Choir

There's a promise I know in the Scripture
we're told of the coming of the Lord;
with His saints to reign, rightful glory gain.
We will praise Him evermore.

We shall rise to meet Him there, when the Lord descends that day.
Eastern skies will greet Him; joy will never, never end.

Coming quick and sure, dressed in garments pure,
He will call His children to a place prepared,
Heaven's joy we'll share when we hear that trumpet shout.

We shall rise to meet Him there, when the Lord descends that day.
Eastern skies will greet Him; joy will never, never end.

Let us watch and pray, living day to day, always looking up to see;
for He will appear, take away all fear, what rejoicing there will be.

We shall, we shall rise to meet Him there,
when the Lord descends that day.
Eastern skies will greet Him; joy will never end.
We shall rise, we shall rise!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Jeff Rooker, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

1 Peter 1:3-5

*[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again
to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

*[4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,
kept in heaven for you,*

*[5] who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a
salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Christ the sure and steady anchor in the fury of the storm,
 when the winds of doubt blow through me and my sails have all been torn.
 In the suffering, in the sorrow, when my sinking hopes are few,
 I will hold fast to the anchor; it shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor while the tempest rages on,
 when temptation claims the battle and it seems the night has won.
 Deeper still, then goes the anchor, though I justly stand accused.
 I will hold fast to the anchor; it shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor through the floods of unbelief.
 Hopeless, somehow, O my soul, now lift your eyes to Calvary.
 This my ballast of assurance- see His love forever proved.
 All my hope is in the anchor; it shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor as we face the wave of death,
 when these trials give way to glory, as we draw our final breath.
 We will cross that great horizon, clouds behind, and life secured.
 And the calm will be the better for the storms that we endure.

Christ the shore of our salvation, ever faithful, ever true.
 We will hold fast to the anchor, it shall never be removed.

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 CCLI Song # 7045331 -- CCLI 209271

Corporate Confession of Sin

Jesus, forgive my sins.
 Forgive the sins that I remember, and the sins I have forgotten.
 Forgive my many failures in the face of temptation,
 and those times when I have been stubborn in the face of correction.
 Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements and
 those when I have failed to boast in Your works.
 Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others,
 and the leniency I have shown myself.
 Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided.
 Forgive me the pain I have caused others and the indulgence
 I have shown myself.
 Jesus, have mercy on me and make me whole. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 5:8-10

[8] but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. [10] For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer
 there is no more for heaven now to give.
 He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,
 my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
 To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
 for my life is wholly bound to His.
 Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
 for by my side, the Savior he will stay.
 I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
 for in my need, His power is displayed.
 To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
 through the deepest valley He will lead.
 Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,
 the future sure, the price it has been paid;
 for Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
 and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
 To this I hold, my sin has been defeated;
 Jesus now and ever is my plea.
 Oh when the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
 for He has said that He will bring me home;
 and day by day I know He will renew me
 until I stand with joy before the throne.
 To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
 all the glory evermore to Him.
 When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren
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Scripture Reading

Mark 4:21-34

Pastor Reed

[21] And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand?"

[22] For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light.

[23] If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

[24] And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you.

[25] *For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.*"

[26] *And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground.*

[27] *He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.*

[28] *The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.*

[29] *But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.*"

[30] *And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it?*

[31] *It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth,*

[32] *yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.*"

[33] *With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it.*

[34] *He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.*

Sermon

"An Optimistic Perspective"

Pastor Reed

Hymn

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the Head and Cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city, dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring in glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call Thee, come, O Lord of hosts, today:
with Thy wonted lovingkindness hear Thy people as they pray;
and Thy fullest benediction shed within its walls alway.

Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants what they ask of Thee to gain,
what they gain from Thee for ever with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in Thy glory evermore with Thee to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One,
One in might, and One in glory, while unending ages run.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“An Optimistic Perspective”
Mark 4:21-34

I. The Glory of the Kingdom.

II. The Growth of the Kingdom.

III. The Greatness of the Kingdom.

Christ The Sure And Steady Anchor

♩ = 77

VERSE

C C/B Am G/B C

1. Christ the sure and stead-y an-chor in the fu-ry of the storm, when the winds of doubt blow
 (2. Christ the) sure and stead-y an-chor while the temp-est rag-es on, when temp-ta-tion claims the
 (3. Christ the) sure and stead-y an-chor through the floods of un-be-lief. Hope-less, some-how, O my
 (4. Christ the) sure and stead-y an-chor as we face the wave of death, when these trials give way to

CHORUS

6 G/B Am G G⁷ C/E F² C/E F² G

through me and my sails have all been torn. In the suf-fring, in the sor-row, when my sink-ing hopes are
 bat-tle and it seems the night has won. Deep-er still, then goes the an-chor, though I just-ly stand ac-
 soul, now lift your eyes to Cal-va-ry. This my bal-last of as-sur-ance- see His love for-ev-er
 glo-ry, as we draw our fi-nal breath. We will cross that great hor-i-zon, clouds be-hind, and life se-
 (D.S.) shore of our sal-va-tion, ev-er faith-ful, ev-er

12 Am F² G/B Am Fmaj⁷ G^{SUS} C

few, I will hold fast to the an-chor; it shall nev-er be re-moved.
 -cused. I will hold fast to the an-chor; it shall nev-er be re-moved.
 proved. All my hope is in the an-chor; it shall nev-er be re-moved.
 -cured. And the calm will be the bet-ter, for the storms that we en-dured.
 true. We will hold fast to the an-chor; it shall nev-er be re-moved.

17 C/B Am⁷ F² C/E D.S. F² C

2.3.4. Christ the Christ the

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

Lead Sheet

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren

♩ = 75

A

C F⁶/A C/G F⁶/A



1. What gift of

5 C F



grace is Je - sus my red - ee - mer There is no
dark but I am not for - sak - en For by my
dread, I know I am For - giv - en The fu - ture
breath I long to fol - low Je - sus For he has

7 C Am G



more for hea - ven now to give He is my
side, the Sav - iour he will stay. I Lab - our
sure, the price it has been paid For Je - sus
said that he will bring me home And day by

9 C C(add9) F



joy, my righ - teous - ness, and free - dom My stead - fast
on in weak - ness and rej - oic - ing For in my
bled and suf - fered for my par - don And he was
day i know he will ren - ew me Un - till I

11 C G C(sus4) C



love, my deep and bound - less peace. To this I
need, his pow - er is dis - played To this I
raised to ov - er - throw the grave To this I
stand with joy be - fore the throne To this I

13 F C

hold, my hope is on - ly Je - sus For my
 hold, my Shep - herd will de - fend me Through the
 hold, my sin has been de - fea - ted Je - sus
 hold, my hope is on - ly Je - sus All the

15 F C G(sus4) G

life is who - lly bound to his. Oh how
 deep - est val - ley he will lead Oh the
 now and ev - er is my plea Oh the
 glo - ry ev - er - more to him When the

17 C Dm C/E F

strange and di - vine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not
 night has been won, and I shall ov - er - come! Yet not
 chains are rel - eased, I can sing: I am free! Yet not
 race is com - plete, still my lips shal re - peat: Yet not

19 C/G G Last time to

I, but through Christ in
 I, but through Christ in
 I, but through Christ in
 I, but through Christ in

20 C F/A C/G F6/A

me
 me
 me

2. The night is
 3. No fate I
 4. With eve-ry

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