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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
September 15, 2024

**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.

*“Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”  
Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them,  
“This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” John 6:27-29*

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on John 6:27-29 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 105:1-6

*[1] Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!  
[2] Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!  
[3] Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!  
[4] Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!  
[5] Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,  
[6] O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!*

Invocation

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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The Sacrament of Baptism

Madelyn Grace Aili                      Rev. Henry Fernandez (Grandfather)  
Covenant daughter of Daniel and Elisa Aili

Hymn

*“How Great Thou Art“*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy pow’r thro’out the universe displayed.

**refrain:** *Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: how great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee: how great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

When thro’ the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

**refrain**

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin.

**refrain**

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.

**refrain**

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Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

J. C. Baker, Ruling Elder

Congregational Prayer

J. C. Baker, Ruling Elder

*“O Safe to the Rock That Is Higher Than I”*

O safe to the Rock that is higher than I,  
my soul in its conflicts and sorrows would fly.  
So sinful, so weary, Thine, Thine would I be;  
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.

**chorus:** *Hiding in Thee, Hiding in Thee  
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.*

In the calm of the noontide, in sorrow's lone hour,  
in times when temptation casts o'er me its power,  
in the tempests of life, on its wide, heaving sea,  
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.

How oft in the conflict, when pressed by the foe,  
I have fled to my Refuge and breathed out my woe.

How often when trials like sea billows roll  
have I hidden in Thee, O Thou Rock of my soul.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Peter Bogaards, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

Romans 1:16-17

*[16] For I am not ashamed of the gospel,  
for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,  
to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

*[17] For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith,  
as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”*

Hymn

*“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”*

(stanzas 1-2)

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**

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Corporate Confession of Sin

Dear Father, we are thankful for Your great mercy.  
Forgive our frivolous attitude toward life,  
our callousness toward suffering,  
our envy of those who have more than we have,  
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,  
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,  
our neglect of Your wise and gracious law.  
Help us change our way of life so that we may desire what is good,  
love what You love, and do what You command.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Micah 7:18-20

*[18] Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.  
[19] He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.  
[20] You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.*

Hymn

*“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”*  
(stanzas 3-4)

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

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

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

Mark 10:13-16

Sermon

*“For to Such Belongs the Kingdom of God”*

Pastor Reed

Hymn

*“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”*

Glorious things of Thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;  
He whose word cannot be broken formed thee for His own abode:  
on the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,  
well supply Thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove;  
who can faint, while such a river ever flows their thirst t'assuage?  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring, see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a cov'ring, showing that the Lord is near:  
thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,  
safe they feed upon the manna which He gives them when they pray.

Savior, if of Zion's city I, through grace, a member am,  
let the world deride or pity, I will glory in Thy Name:  
fading is the worldling's pleasure, all his boasted pomp and show;  
solid joys and lasting treasure none but Zion's children know.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“For to Such Belongs the Kingdom of God”*  
Mark 10:13-16

I. The Condition for Entering the Kingdom.

II. The Demand for Entering the Kingdom.

## **MEMBERS OF SESSION**

### **RULING ELDERS**

**Class of 2024**  
Mr. Jim Lewis  
Mr. Josh Sanford  
Dr. Brandon Walser

**Class of 2025**  
Mr. J. C. Baker  
Mr. Dan Butkowski  
Dr. Bob Tramel

**Class of 2026**  
Mr. William Fennell  
Mr. Jeff Nissen  
Mr. Bill Scholl

### **TEACHING ELDERS**

Rev. Dr. Tim J. Reed, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

**Class of 2024**  
Mr. David Beurman  
Dr. Ken Knecht  
Mr. Kurt Smith

**Class of 2025**  
Mr. Peter Bogaards  
Dr. Jonathan Goodwin  
Mr. Jason Guenther

**Class of 2026**  
Mr. Andrew Kinzler  
Mr. Mike Lieblich  
Dr. David Matlock

### **STAFF**

Rev. Justin Hilliard, Assistant Pastor (Pinnacle Classical Academy)  
Mr. Ben Russ, Bookkeeper  
Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant

### **MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS**

Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Choir Director  
Mrs. Liz Baker, Vocalist  
Mr. David Beurman, Violinist

Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist  
Mrs. Valerie Hilliard, 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  
Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)  
Will & Martha, International  
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

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