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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
September 8, 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.

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife,  
and they shall become one flesh.”*

Genesis 2:24

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on Genesis 2:24 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 135: 1-6, 13

*[1] Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD,  
[2] who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!  
[3] Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!  
[4] For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession.  
[5] For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.  
[6] Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.  
[13] Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.*

Invocation

Hymn

*“All Creatures of Our God and King“*

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,

**refrain:** *O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav’n along, O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou rising moon in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice,

**refrain**

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest man both warmth and light,

**refrain**

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part, O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, Praise God and on Him cast your care,

**refrain**

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One,

**refrain**

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Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:15-25

Jim Lewis, Ruling Elder

Congregational Prayer

Jim Lewis, Ruling Elder

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Kurt Smith, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;  
the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;  
the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;  
the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.  
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.  
By them is Your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Hymn

*“What Wondrous Love Is This”*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on!

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Corporate Confession of Sin

We confess, our Father, that we do not live up to the family name.  
We are more ready to resent than to forgive,  
more ready to manipulate than to serve,  
more ready to fear than to love,  
more ready to keep our distance than to welcome,  
more ready to compete than to help.  
At the root of this behavior is mistrust.  
We do not love one another as we should,  
because we do not believe that You love us as You do.  
Forgive us our cold unbelief.  
And make more vivid to us the meaning and depth of Your love at the cross.  
Show us what it cost You to give up Your Son  
that we might become Your sons and daughters.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus our righteousness. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 2:9-10

*[9] But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.  
[10] Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

Hymn

*“The Steadfast Love of Christ”*

Once my heart was a prison defiled and cold,  
where sin and the enemy reigned.  
I was bound by the chains that enslaved my soul;  
no hint of repentance or shame.  
But then Jesus appeared like the morning sun,  
defeating the shadows with light,  
and forgiveness flowed through His precious blood,  
Oh, the steadfast love of Christ.  
Though redeemed, I still battle the lies within  
that silently war in my soul.  
In my weakness I yield to the power of sin  
and desperately cry out for hope.  
But then grace rushes in like a mighty flood,  
new strength to engage in the fight,  
and I taste the freedom the cross has won  
through the steadfast love of Christ.  
All the world is accursed and in sorrow still,  
as heartache and suffering remain.  
But the hope of creation will be fulfilled:  
our Savior is coming to reign.  
I believe in the justice of God the Son,  
I know faith will turn into sight,  
every tear stain dried, every wound undone  
by the steadfast love of Christ.

Bob Kauflin/David Zimmer/Ryan Foglesong/© Sovereign Grace Praise/CCLI 209271

Scripture

Mark 10:1-12

Sermon

*“A Lesson on Marriage and Divorce”*

Pastor Reed

Hymn

*“O Father, All-Creating”*  
(to the tune, *“The Church’s One Foundation”*)

O Father, all creating, Whose wisdom, love, and pow’r  
first bound two lives together in Eden’s primal hour,  
today to these Thy children Thine earliest gifts renew,  
a home by Thee made happy, a love by Thee kept true.

O Savior, Guest most bounteous of old in Galilee,  
vouchsafe today Thy presence with these who call on Thee;  
their store of earthly gladness transform to heav’nly wine,  
and teach them, in the tasting, to know the gift is Thine.

O Spirit of the Father, breathe on them from above,  
so mighty in Thy pureness, so tender in Thy love;  
That, guarded by Thy presence, from sin and strife kept free,  
their lives may own Thy guidance, their hearts be ruled by Thee.

Except Thou build it, Father, the house is built in vain;  
except Thou, Savior, bless it, the joy will turn to pain;  
but naught can break the union of hearts in Thee made one;  
and love Thy Spirit hallows is endless love begun.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“A Lesson on Marriage and Divorce”*  
Mark 10:1-12

I. A Trick Question.

II. A Divine Ordinance.

III. A Moral Obligation.

## **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

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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**

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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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