

## **Worship Together - Our Values**



In our worship together at Christ Covenant we value the centrality of the gospel. Every service of worship is focused on this truth of the gospel - “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8). We center our worship around this truth as the truth of all truth. We trust God to use this truth in our worship to convert and renew his people. The gospel focuses our worship on a narrative framework that brings structure and cohesion to all the parts of a service of worship. Every service, every liturgy, every sermon series, every opportunity through the Sacraments, is focused on God’s wisdom, goodness, and power in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel guides us in our form and style in our worship. The God of the gospel is higher than our highest thoughts and affections can reach. Yet, in the gospel he reveals his condescension to our simplicities and our brokenness. Therefore, the prayers, the readings, the confessions, the music and songs will take us to great heights and great depths. Keeping the gospel central in our worship enables us to worship knowing that we are already loved and accepted by God through faith in Christ. This keeps us from coming to worship to perform before God for his acceptance, or to merely gain knowledge and information to earn favor from God and man. Christ Covenant values the centrality of the gospel in her worship together.

In our worship together at Christ Covenant we value what God commands. Every service of worship is crafted around what God requires of us in worship. We do not worship according to our own imaginations or machinations. We worship according to God’s prescribed will as revealed in the Bible. We trust God by his grace and truth to help us to worship together in Spirit and truth (John 4:24). We gather together to worship by the work of the Spirit of God in our lives and trust him to guide us to worship him according to his truth revealed in his word. Therefore, we worship together from hearts that are coming to love him, trust him, and present ourselves to him for his will in our lives because of his mercies. In our worship together we practice the elements that he uses in our lives as his means of grace: prayer, singing, reading and preaching of his word, and the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. In this way we are trusting him to build us up together as his worshipers into lives by faith in Jesus Christ. Christ Covenant values worshipping together according to what God commands.

In our worship together at Christ Covenant we value a narrative. Our worship services follow a story with a plot. We begin with Preparation. We gather to worship distracted by the cares of this world. As we prepare by listening to the music, reading over the order of worship, or praying quietly God gets our attention. Praise continues our

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storyline. We begin to worship as God sets our minds and affections upon his glory. We worship him with praise, thanksgiving, and trust. In the light of his glorious holiness the plot unfolds as we need Renewal. We see his holiness and our helplessness. We admit our faults and seek our life in him by his grace. Commitment is the place in the story where we hear him speak from his word read and proclaimed, and we trust him for his work in our lives through the Sacraments. We hear the hope of his salvation and we respond as those ready to serve him as our God, in his church, city, and the world. The story concludes with Mission as we are given his grace to go in love to him and our neighbor. Christ Covenant values a storyline in our worship together.

In our worship together at Christ Covenant we value the city. In God's providence Christ Covenant worships together in the City of Columbia. Therefore, we serve and love the city for her flourishing. Christ Covenant is a congregation made up of people from around the city and from outside the city. Yet it is our vision to see the City of Columbia flourishing through God's grace and truth in the gospel. As we gather together for worship we can celebrate what God is doing in the city, we can mourn over the brokenness of the city, and we can have hope in God for the city. This value prevents us from a false triumphalism, or the pursuit of a sequestered counter culture in our worship. Our worship will be affected by our attachment to the city. We will not ignore its history or its present. We will worship with a growing understanding of its culture, its idols and its needs. Christ Covenant values the city God has placed her in to worship together.

In our worship together at Christ Covenant we value our neighbor. We will worship the Triune God from our hearts with an outward face to our neighbor. When we worship together we assume that individuals present are at various stages of faith. There will be gathered those who are skeptical, honestly questioning, seeking, and those indifferent. There will be present Christians struggling with doubts, struggling with sin, and those who are maturing and growing by faith in Christ Jesus. We value our worship being comprehensible to all. We will continue to be faithful to God's truth, and strive for deep and meaningful practices according to God's word. However, we will strive to do this so that our neighbors feel welcomed, valued, respected and included in our worship together. Christ Covenant values our neighbors where they are in life in our worship together.

## **Life Together**

Life Groups are expanding. We will be conducting a six week series for adults entitled, "I Believe, Exploring the Apostles' Creed". This study is designed to help people grow in their understanding of the doctrines outlined in the ancient Apostles' Creed. This study will be helpful to anyone who has questions about the Christian faith, as well as to those who are growing and maturing in the Christian faith. We will continue to study around the round tables with a teaching and discussion format in order that we may grow in Life Together.

Reverend Sammy Rhodes will be leading a Life Group for young adults. This group is for young adults who are living in a college and career stage in life. Sammy will be teaching from the book, *Love Walked Among Us, Learning to Love Like Jesus*.

If you interested in growing in your understanding of and participating in a ministry of mercy and justice through Christ Covenant Church we are beginning a Growth Group Wednesday October 10th at 6:00 PM. We will be studying *Helping Without Hurting*, and practically putting into place a ministry of mercy at Christ Covenant. If you are interested in participating contact Jim Wilkerson.

## **Ministry Together**

This week October 1-7, teams will be going to Mullins PCA to work on the Wildlife Action Camp (a long term volunteer housing location) and families houses in Mullins and Conway. Many of the families who lost their homes and belongings in Hurricane Matthew rebuilt, but lost these things again in Hurricane Florence. The teams will be doing "muck out work". If you would like to spend the night there will be available a bunkhouse trailer. The contact person is Spider Spivey [spider.spivey@gmail.com](mailto:spider.spivey@gmail.com) or Sherry Lanier [slanier@pcanet.org](mailto:slanier@pcanet.org) You will need to have a volunteer registration with the PCA Mission to North America Disaster Relief office. Contact the church office if you're interested in participating or joining a team traveling to do this work.