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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day

May 3, 2020

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.

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”
Colossians 2:6

Prelude

During the prelude, prepare for worship by reflecting on Colossians 2:6 printed above.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Lamentations 3:22-25

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in Him.” The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

Invocation

Hymn

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of Thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner’s ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the pow’r of reigning sin,
He sets the pris’ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.

He speaks, and, list’ning to His voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
your loosen’d tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior’s name!
He has hushed the law’s loud thunder, He has quenched Mount Sinai’s flame:
He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood.
He has washed us with His blood. He has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies,
called us by His grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with His blood. He has washed us with His blood.
He has washed us with His blood. He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing, though fierce temptation, threaten hard to bear us down!
For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqu’ror’s crown:
He who washed us with His blood. He who washed us with His blood.
He who washed us with His blood soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy’s store;
when through grace in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more:
He who washed us with His blood. He who washed us with His blood.
He who washed us with His blood. Has secured our way to God.

Let us praise and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;
here they trusted Him before us, now their praises fill the sky:
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood. Thou hast washed us with Thy blood.
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood. Thou art worthy, Lamb of God.

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Corporate Profession of Faith

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation; in Him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through Him and for Him.

He Himself is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything.

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross. Amen.

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, Who raised Him from the dead.

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.

This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.

Congregational Prayer

J. C. Baker, Ruling Elder

Hymn

“Jesus, I Come”

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
 Into Thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to Thee.
 Out of my sickness into Thy health, out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
 out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
 Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee.
 Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm, out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
 out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
 Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee.
 Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, out of despair into raptures above,
 upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
 Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.
 Out of the depths of ruin untold, into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
 ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Corporate Confession of Sin

Lord Jesus, give us a deeper repentance, a horror of sin, a dread of its approach. Help us to flee it. We have no Master but You, no law but Your will, no delight but Yourself, no wealth but what You give, no good but what You bless, no peace but what You bestow.

We are nothing but what You make of us, we have nothing but what we receive from You. We can be nothing but that grace adorns us. Quarry us deep, dear Lord, and then fill us to overflowing with living water. Amen.

Individual Prayer of Confession (silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Hymn

“Trust and Obey”

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good will,
He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain: *Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
but His smile quickly drives it away; not a doubt or a fear,
not a sigh nor a tear, can abide while we trust and obey.

Refrain

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
but our toil He doth richly repay; not a grief nor a loss,
not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey.

Refrain

But we never can prove the delights of His love
until all on the altar we lay; for the favor He shows,
and the joy He bestows, are for them who will trust and obey.

Refrain

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
or we'll walk by His side in the way. what He says we will do,
where He sends we will go, never fear, only trust and obey.

Refrain

And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you, and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey His voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and He will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.

If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will take you.

And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.

And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

And the LORD your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you. And you shall again obey the voice of the LORD and keep all His commandments that I command you today.

The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, as He took delight in your fathers, when you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?" Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?" But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in His ways, and by keeping His commandments and His statutes and His rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.

Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying His voice and holding fast to Him, for He is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

Sermon Outline

I. The Inward Renewal.

II. The Accessible Word.

III. The Decisive Decision.

Hymn

“Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!”

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul;
friends may fail me, foes assail me, He, my Savior, makes me whole.

Refrain: *Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.*

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in Him;
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, He, my strength, my vict'ry wins.

Refrain

Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows ov'r me roll,
even when my heart is breaking, He, my comfort, helps my soul.

Refrain

Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,
storms about me, night o'ertakes me, He, my pilot, hears my cry.

Refrain

Jesus! I do now receive Him, more than all in Him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am His, and He is mine.

Refrain

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

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