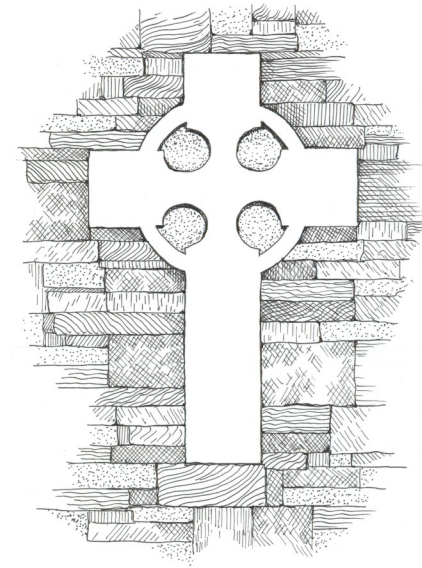


Contact Us



CHRIST COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 27, 2024 | **Worship 9:00 a.m.** | Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

# The Lord's Day

## PRELUDE & TIME OF MEDITATION

“The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.”  
The Ninety-five Theses by Martin Luther – Theses #62

## WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP **Nehemiah 8:10 & Hebrews 12:28-29**

Minister: This day is holy to the Lord your God. Come and know the Word of the Lord. Proclaim it and rejoice greatly, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!

**All: Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.**

## SONGS OF PRAISE ***O God, Our Help In Ages Past***

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. Tommy Walker 1998 TUNE: St. Anne; William Croft, 1708

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

*O God, You are, You are our help, You are our helper.  
To all generations You will be forever and ever  
Our shield and our eternal hope, O Lord,  
You are the Ancient of Days and worthy of our praise.*

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

### ***A Thousand Hallelujahs***

WORDS & MUSIC: Brooke Ligertwood, Phil Wickham, and Scott Ligertwood, 2022

Who else would rocks cry out to worship; Whose glory taught the stars to shine  
Perhaps creation longs to have the words to sing; But this joy is mine.

With a thousand hallelujahs We magnify Your Name.  
You alone deserve the glory The honor and the praise.  
Lord Jesus, this song is forever Yours  
A thousand hallelujahs And a thousand more.

Who else would die for our redemption; Whose resurrection means I'll rise  
There isn't time enough to sing of all You've done; But I have eternity to try

### **The Bereans**

Randy Hays / Jonathan Haynes

Room 4

Some 2000 years ago Jesus preached one of His most famous sermons. His Sermon on the Mount as told by the Apostle Matthew details how we Christians are to live in this fallen world. Join us as we study this important message about our Lord's present and future Kingdom.

### **Women of all ages**

Ashley Wilbanks

Room 10

Join us for a profound exploration of faith and resilience starting September 8th in our Sunday School class. Inspired by Romans 12:2 and James 1:2, we'll embark on a journey of understanding the transformative power of embracing pain to grasp the depth of Jesus' nature. Together, we'll dive into the timeless wisdom of not conforming to the world's patterns but being renewed in mind and spirit. Through interactive discussions and heartfelt reflection, we'll learn to count it all joy when facing trials, recognizing them as opportunities for growth and spiritual maturity. As we navigate life's challenges, we'll uncover the profound joy and strength that come from a deepened understanding of Jesus' character. All are invited to join us on this journey of discovery and transformation. See you there!

### ***Church Membership—Pastor's Inquirers Class***

We have a Pastor's Inquirers Class for those who are considering church membership or who simply want to know more about Christ Covenant. This 4-week class is currently meeting in the Sanctuary during the Sunday School hour. If you are interested in attending, please come join us!

### ***Covenant Groups***

Covenant Groups are cross-generational groups intended to allow participation of all Christ Covenant members plus regularly participating non-members for the purposes of belonging, serving, encouraging, and nurturing. You may contact any of the elders on the back of the bulletin to get connected with a Covenant Group.

### ***Women for Christ***

The CCPC Women's Committee was developed to serve the women in our church body based on Romans 12:2. We are committed to teaching women to be transformed by the renewing of their minds through Scripture so that the women of our church will be able to test and approve God's good, pleasing, and perfect will. Our desire is that every woman at CCPC has an opportunity to serve and connect. We are focused on outreach, prayer, mercy ministry, and spiritual growth. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas of service to our church family, please contact Tina (256) 347-3593 or Diane (256) 709-2642.

### ***Church Directory Updates***

Our church directory is available to view on your mobile device. Instant Church Directory - the program we use to build our church directory - has a free app for church members to download on their Apple and Android devices. Download the Instant Church Directory app from the App Store on your device. You will be asked to enter your email address as it's listed in our directory. If your email address isn't listed in the directory, let our church secretary know so it can be added. Once you enter your email address, follow the directions on screen to complete the login process. After you login, the directory will be downloaded to your device. Anytime updates are made, they will update on your device too. In the app you will be able to search for families and members and call, email, and text right from the app. More information can be found at [www.InstantChurchDirectory.com/app](http://www.InstantChurchDirectory.com/app).

# Classes & Other Information

## *Children's Sunday School*

Sunday school classes for all ages are held after the worship service. All children 3rd grade and younger go directly to Room 3 (the "chandelier room") following the service. Children 3rd grade or younger should be picked up from their class once Sunday school is over. All 4th-6th grade students should go directly to their class downstairs and will be dismissed following Sunday School. Below you will find a class list and room numbers.

**Toddler Class** - Scott/Becky Lewis—Room 14

**PreK-4 Yrs Class** - Whitney/Braden Cook & Joyah/Wyatt Pettus—Room 15

**Kindergarten-1st Grade** - Audrey/John Nyquist & Allison/Blake Bright—Room 6

**2nd Grade** - Justin/Jesse Robinson/ 2 teachers needed—Room 8

**3rd Grade** - Allison/Blake Bright & Patricia/David Branscomb—Room 9

**4th -6th Grade Girls** - Madison McCoy—Downstairs

**4th-6th Grade Boys**— Rick White/Stam Kennedy/Shawn Robb/Daniel Johnson/Phillip Mahler-Downstairs

## *Youth Sunday School*

The youth will meet in two classes at The Hill.

<b>7<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Jonathan Knappenberger - Jesus' Parables	The Hill (Big Room)
<b>10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Jason McCoy - 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Samuel	The Hill (Green Room)

## *Adult Sunday School*

Adult Sunday school classes are divided roughly along the lines of age and stage of life. Each Sunday provides an opportunity for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer with others experiencing similar circumstances according to the particular age and stage of life. These classes are for both men and women unless indicated otherwise. During the Summer Months we combine our Adult Classes for a time of fellowship and teaching for all ages and stages.

**Foundations** Andy / Derek Gloria Edwards Room  
This fall the Foundations Class will take a deep dive into the 1st Century Church. We will study how the movement started. Learn about how the early church operated in the community. Discuss the relevance that caused the message to spread. We will take a look at what made it different enough to have a lasting impact for the past 2,000 years and how can we apply those lessons at CCPC to impact our surrounding community? Come join Derek Rakestraw and Andy Starnes as we discuss these topics and much more.

**Salt & Light** Steve/ Kent / Chris / Jason Fellowship Hall

Topic - **The Bigger Story: Good, Bad, Redeemed, Restored**

**Today: Joshua**

November 3 –Judges

November 10 - Ruth

November 17– 1 Samuel

Praise to the Lord, To the Lamb  
To the King of heaven. Praise for He rose  
Now He reigns. We will sing forever.

(We sing) Praise to the Lord, To the Lamb,  
To the King of heaven. Praise for He rose.  
Now He reigns. We will sing forever.

## INVOCATION

## SCRIPTURE READING

**Isaiah 43**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

O Lord our God, for the glory of Your holy name, You have given us new hearts that turn away from idols and worship and serve You only. You have removed our hearts of stone and given us hearts of flesh. Forgive us, Lord, for not living every day in the power of the new life. Renew us by Your Spirit and enable us to walk in obedience to Your holy law. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## SONG OF ASSURANCE

***I Set My Hope On Jesus***

WORDS: Keith & Kristyn Getty, Matt Papa

When this life of trials test my faith  
I set my hope on Jesus  
When the questions come and doubts remain  
I set my hope on Jesus  
For the deepest wounds that time won't heal  
There's a joy that runs still deeper  
There's a truth that's more than all I feel  
I set my hope on Jesus

I set my hope on Jesus  
My rock, my only trust  
Who set His heart upon me first  
I set my hope on Jesus

Though I falter in this war with sin  
I set my hope on Jesus  
When I fail the fight and sink within  
I set my hope on Jesus

Though the shame would drown me in its sea  
And I dread the waves of justice  
I will cast my life on Calvary  
I set my hope on Jesus

I set my hope on Jesus  
My rock, my only trust  
Who set His heart upon me first  
I set my hope on Jesus

Though the world called me to leave my Lord  
I set my hope on Jesus  
Though it offer all its vain rewards  
I set my hope on Jesus  
Though this heart of mine is prone to stray  
Give me grace enough to finish  
'Til I worship on that final day  
I set my hope on Jesus

I set my hope on Jesus  
My rock, my only trust  
Who set His heart upon me first  
I set my hope on Jesus

I set my hope on Jesus  
My rock, my only trust  
Who set His heart upon me first  
I set my hope on Jesus

I set my hope on Jesus

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

## **OFFERING**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Romans 3:9-31**

## **SERMON**

**“Justified by Faith”**

## **COMMUNION SONG**

***In Christ Alone***

TEXT & MUSIC: Townend/Getty, 2002

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied,  
For every sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground, His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!

# Romans 3:9-31 “Justified by Faith”

## SERMON NOTES

# “Love . . . Reaching”

**Anthony Odtohan serves as a Japan-based mission team member of the MTW Chiba Academics & Outreach Team, as well as deacon and ministry assistant for Oyumino Christ Church's bilingual worship (Alive International). Anthony and his wife, Sayo, have three children—Aika, Daiki, and Sakina. The excerpts below are from Anthony's Summer 2024 Update.**

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for us in Japan. Progress continues mental health-wise for us, especially for Anthony who made a gradual return to ministry since September 2023. We also continue to benefit from counseling online which helps us not only to heal (which takes time!) but also to start to acquire "tools" to deal with the uncomfortable daily reality of now being more acutely aware of our mental health. There is something about the life-long consequence of burnout and managing mental health that lingers: it makes us slow down and gain more depth of self-awareness, especially in coming to accept our limits. It also causes us to listen more. At the same time, there have been countless situations in the past year where opening up about mental issues to others, Christians and non-Christians, leads them to also open up about their own experiences that they normally keep to themselves. Sharing weakness is not normally viewed as a strength, but it might be an open door to relate to many people here in Japan as a common point of contact.

**Local Community Involvement:** Anthony reluctantly accepted a vice-chair role in our Honda Minami (South) neighborhood association covering 200+ households within walking distance of Honda Chapel. As the only foreigner, Anthony naturally stands out and has become more of a familiar face. Each household (even rental houses like ours) takes a turn to be involved in the local leadership each year. The roles & responsibilities include neighborhood cleanups, crime watch and safety, and emergency preparedness. Ever since the first day of introductions, the Japanese neighborhood leaders are all now aware of the existence of Honda Chapel. During meetings, whenever there are roles that conflict with "Anthony's job Sunday afternoons at the chapel" thankfully they are respectfully aware of that and other days and times are negotiated. So far only the chairman himself has expressed interest in checking out the bilingual worship service someday (but pray that he would actually follow through!). Please pray for a good working relationship as Anthony's presence helps to put the chapel on the map so it may lead to natural invitations.

**Basketball Club Outreach:** Junior-high kids in the neighborhood have been coming to play basketball on their own after school at the basketball half-court right outside Honda Chapel but we have hardly ever tried to get to know their names or intentionally connect with them. With the arrival of 3-month intern Jeff Brown, who has had a lot of coaching experience, and new teammate Angel Velez, we decided to try a free basketball club at the basketball half-court right outside Honda Chapel. In mid-June some kids started to show up more regularly and we taught them some basic basketball skills and played pick-up games. Pray for our relationship with the boys that God will use the connections we have made.

**Prayer Requests:** 1) Pray for new school admin support roles for Anthony at Covenant Community School International (CCSI) beginning in September. It will also include leading the weekly school Wednesday devotional prayer time for the nations and helping with revamping the school website: <https://www.ccsi-japan.com/>; 2) Continue to pray for us that God would make us know the way we should go (Psalm 143:8) as a family for a healthy and sustainable way for long-term service; 3) Continue to pray for God to heal and sustain our marriage and family in the midst of challenges and discouragements.

And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny;  
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**      **Westminster Confession of Faith Shorter Catechism Q. 33**  
Minister: What is justification?

**All: Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein He pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.**

**COMMUNION**

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING SONG**

*All Things New*  
WORDS & MUSIC: Mike Lunsford, 2013

You've said you know the plans you have for me; You've said that I am wonderfully made.  
But I've forsaken all you have for me, For idols that will all melt away.

*But you stayed true, My God, I praise you!  
You came to me in my brokenness, And pulled me out of the mess,  
And you turned me around.  
You heard me call out in my distress, In spite of your holiness, You came down.  
And you're making all things new, You're making all things new.*

You've told me I was made in your image, That you've adopted me as your son.  
I've walked through life more like I'm an orphan And not as one of your chosen ones.

## **Pastor's Inquirer's Class**

Our Pastor's Inquirer's Class is currently meeting during the Sunday School hour. This four-week class will meet in the Sanctuary and cover topics such as our doctrinal beliefs, our church life, and our membership vows. Learn more about the PCA, the history of Christ Covenant, and what Church membership looks like. Please plan on joining us!

## **Greetings From Our Pastor**

Welcome to Christ Covenant! We are honored and delighted to have you worshiping with us this Lord's Day. The entire CCPC family is eager to meet you, answer any questions you may have, and serve you best we can. After the service my wife and I will be in the lobby where we would love to personally greet and welcome you. I pray that our time together has been a source of encouragement to your soul, and that you have been refreshed by the Lord's Word and His people. Please let us know how we can serve you!  
Grace and peace, Jason Ellerbee, Sr. Pastor

# Christ Covenant News

1310 St. Joseph Dr. NW · Cullman, Alabama 35055  
www.christcovenantcullman.org · (256) 739-0505  
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

## **This Week's Activities**

### **Monday**

10:00 a.m. Ladies Prayer Time  
12:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting (Sanctuary)

### **Tuesday**

6:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast Bible Study  
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

### **Wednesday**

6:15 p.m. Covenant Kids, Covenant  
Groups, Youth Groups

### **Thursday**

6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study

### **Friday**

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

### **Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service & Communion  
10:30 a.m. Sunday School  
2:00 p.m. Art Fellowship

## **Nursery Volunteers Schedule**

### **October 27**

Church Service— Vanessa Rakestraw, Chris Dotson  
Sunday School— Sue Eidson

### **November 3**

Church Service— Rebekah Taylor, Stan Kennedy  
Sunday School— Wanda Quick

## **Covenant Kids Corner**

10/30 Menu— Pizza  
This Week— Special Activities Night (Focus on PCA  
MNA/Disaster relief)

## **Roots 10th Annual Retreat**

Providence Presbytery Youth Retreat. January 24th-  
26th. The cost is \$145. To register and any additional  
info will be in the Narthex or you can visit  
<https://www.providencepresbytery.com/roots>

## **Birthdays This Week**

Oct. 27 .....Cecilia Cook  
29.....Mary Holman Lunsford  
30.....Lily Powell  
Annabelle Howze  
31.....Judah Holmes  
Karen Adams  
Nov. 2.....Alden Rakestraw  
Elaine Willilams  
Holden Skeen  
Lily Howze  
Sarah Holmes

*Did we miss a birthday? Email Madison*

## **Disaster Response Opportunities**

As we continue praying for those affected by recent  
Hurricanes, there are many ways you can help those whose  
lives have been altered. Below is a list sent by our area  
MNA (Mission to North America) Disaster Response  
representative Mike Kennamer:

1. **Pray** - First and foremost.
2. **Give to Helene Relief** - There is a designated account  
for Hurricane Helene relief on the MNA disaster relief  
website. One-hundred percent of these funds will be spent  
on response to the storm. [Click here to give.](#)
3. **Go** – If you are able to go and serve, please  
contact [Mike Kennamer](#) to learn more. If you wish to go to  
a site you should register in [advance here.](#)
4. **Donate Relief Supplies** – There is a section on  
the [MNA Warehouse website](#) with current needs. Scroll  
down to the bottom of the page to see the list.

**Samaritan's Purse** is another Christ centered relief  
ministry that can be trusted to mobilize resources to areas  
of need. You can go to: [www.samaritanpurse.org](http://www.samaritanpurse.org) to learn  
more about them and give.

## **Livestream Announcement**

We are in the process of moving our livestream location to  
our website. During this transition you can find our  
livestream on our YouTube page @  
[www.youtube.com/@christcovenantcullman5583](http://www.youtube.com/@christcovenantcullman5583).

## **CCPC Work Day**

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, December 7th  
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as we serve together caring for our  
church.

## **Men's Ministry Events**

*"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be  
strong. Let all that you do be done in love."*

*1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

**Men's Breakfast Bible Study** – Tuesday mornings at  
6:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall - Proverbs

**3M Men's Fellowship**– Bonfire at Brandon Reeder's  
Home - 1278 County Road 447 - Saturday, November  
16th at 5 p.m.

**Men's Prayer Time** – Friday mornings, 7:00 am in  
the church session room.

## **Opportunity to Show Christ's**

### **Compassion**

*"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what  
does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to  
love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*  
– Micah 6:8

Each month, our deacons will be gathering items to  
assist in serving the needs of our community. In  
November, they will be receiving soup, Pop Tarts, and  
jelly for Wallace State. Please drop off some of the  
items listed above in the "Mercy Bin" located in the  
Narthex before November 10th . Thanks so much!

## **Rummage Sale 2025**

Our storage unit is ready to receive your boxed items.  
Please bring your items in sturdy boxes with lids so  
they can be stacked. If you need tubs, please let Judie  
Hubbard know and she can get you some to use. Also,  
DO NOT bring any clothes which also includes shoes,  
hats, scarves, belts, socks and gloves. Those items will  
be collected in the Spring. If you have any questions,  
don't hesitate to call Judie, 256-708-7877.

## **Art Fellowship**

The Art Fellowship will be meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from 2-4 p.m. Contact  
Marion Frey if you have any questions. 256-347-4201

## **Family Hike Sunday, November 10th**

Meet at the Church at 1:30 p.m. and we will hike to  
Souhagoagdee Falls in the Bankhead National Forest.  
It is about four miles round-trip. Please contact Tina  
Hulse with questions, 256-347-3593.

## **Women's Ministry Events**

**Women's Bible Studies:** Tuesday Morning Bible  
study will be held on Tuesday's at 9:30-11:30 a.m. at  
the church. On Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> we will begin  
a new study on the book of Acts using Nancy  
Guthrie's book "Saved"

Thursday night Bible Study will be at 6:30-8:00 pm at  
the church. We will be studying *Behold & Believe:  
Encountering Jesus As The Great I Am*. Childcare is  
available the first two weeks, no reservation needed. It  
will be available by request after the first two weeks  
of the night study.

**Ladies Night:** Due to the November Veteran's Day  
holiday, Ladies' Night will be on TUESDAY,  
November 12th at the home of Laurie Ewing's at 164  
County Road 1451, Cullman, AL 35058.

**Ladies Lunch:** November Ladies' Lunch will be  
Wednesday, November 13th at Rumor's.

**Ladies Prayer Time:** Ladies' Prayer Time will be  
meeting every Monday at 10:00 am in the bell tower  
room at the church. Women of all ages are invited. No  
one will be expected or pressured to pray aloud. This  
is a great way to serve the Lord through intercession  
for our church. Ephesians 6:18: *"Pray at all times in  
the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert  
with all perseverance and intercession for all the  
saints."*

## **CCPC Covenant Groups**

Each Fall, Christ Covenant launches a new season of  
Covenant Groups. Covenant Groups are a time of  
connecting with one another with a focus on living lives  
together, in community, exposed to each other's  
strengths and weaknesses, dealing with our ups and  
downs as the years move by. Our intent for these groups  
is spiritual growth and nurture in community. Designed  
to foster spiritually relevant relationships, Covenant  
Groups meet in our homes, are not permanent, and are  
organized and shepherded by our elders. If you are a  
visitor and would like to be a part of a Covenant Group,  
please let one of our elders or our pastor know, as we  
would love to have you join us!

*For more announcements and information, please  
refer to our weekly email and website.*