

## **Preparing Your Heart for Worship**

February 21, 2021

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“In Christ God offers all happiness in place of our misery, all wealth in place of our neediness; in Christ God opens to us the heavenly treasures that our whole faith may contemplate His beloved Son, that our whole expectation may depend upon Him, and that our whole hope may cleave to and rest in Him. This, indeed, is that secret and hidden philosophy which cannot be wrestled from syllogisms. But they whose eyes God has opened surely learn it by heart, that in His light they may see light.”

– John Calvin

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

*From Ephesians 1*

Pastor: Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, may you know what is the hope to which he has called you this morning.

**Congregation: We take joy in the riches of his glorious inheritance, and hope in the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe.**

Pastor: This we are assured of because of his great might which he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at the right hand in the heavenly places.

**Congregation: For our King is far above all rule and authority, far above all power and dominion, above every name that is named.**

Pastor: All things are in subjection to Christ, you are the head of all things including us, your church.

**Together: And we are your body, and by your grace we worship you, the fullness of him who fills all in all!**

† *Please stand if able*

**† HYMNS OF PRAISE**

*“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and  
love.

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render, O help us to see:  
‘Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

*“More Than We Know”*

When we walk through the desert for forty years straight  
It may feel like the Lord doesn’t care.  
But the manna that feeds us day after day  
Is the proof that he’s always been there.  
It’s the proof that he’s always been there.

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Chorus:

The Lord loves his children more than we know,  
All that he does, he does to show  
That he'll never forsake us, he'll never let go.  
The Lord loves his children more than we know,  
Oh, oh, oh...

When we stare down that giant standing so tall  
Marching toward us on the field,  
The Lord sends his champion to fight for us all,  
And his children need only be still.  
His children need only be still.

Chorus

When the hour grows dark, he closes his eyes  
And our Savior breathes his last breath;  
He pierces the darkness, and he comes back to  
life  
So his children don't have to fear death.  
His children don't have to fear death.

Chorus

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Because Christ Jesus died in your place,  
for your sins, you are forgiven.

**People: Hallelujah! Praise God!**

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Children ages 3 through 4th grade dismiss with their  
teachers for Sunday school. They will return at the end  
of the service.*

### +HYMN OF ASSURANCE

*“Behold Our God”*

Who has held the oceans in his hands?  
Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at his voice  
All creation rises to rejoice

Chorus:

Behold our God, seated on his throne  
Come, let us adore him  
Behold our king, nothing can compare  
Come, let us adore him

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Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of his words?  
Who can teach, the one who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Chorus

Who has felt the nails upon his hands?  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man  
God eternal, humbled to the grave  
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

Chorus

You will reign forever  
(let Your glory fill the Earth)  
You will reign forever  
(let Your glory fill the Earth)  
You will reign forever  
(let Your glory fill the Earth)  
You will reign forever  
(let Your glory fill the Earth)  
You will reign forever  
(let Your glory fill-)

Chorus (2x)

## SERMON TEXT

### **Romans 9:6-24**

6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, 7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 8 This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. 9 For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” 10 And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, 11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— 12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” 13 As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

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16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” 18 So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

19 You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” 20 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? 22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— 24 even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

Leader: This is the word of the LORD.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON: “Is God Unfair?”***Rev. Dr. Alec Flynt**Romans 9:6-24*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father who art in heaven,  
 Hallowed be Thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come,  
 Thy will be done,  
 on earth, as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our debts,  
 as we forgive our debtors.  
 And lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil:  
 For thine is the Kingdom,  
 and the power, and the glory, forever.  
 Amen.

## + CLOSING 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 forever wilt be.

Chorus:

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

Chorus

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessing all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Chorus

**+ BENEDICTION**

## **THIS WEEK AT COVENANT**

### **Today –**

Covenant Boys Bible Club, 12:15-1:30 p.m.

### **Tuesday, February 23 –**

Crichton Table, box lunches handed out at 11:30 a.m.

### **Wednesday, February 24 –**

Community Bible Study (virtual)

### **Thursday, February 25 –**

Men's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Women's Bible Study, 9:15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Day One – John 16

Day Two – Psalm 25

Day Three – John 17

Day Four – John 18

Day Five – Proverbs 1

## **STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Alec Flynt

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## THE SESSION

2021: John Bell, Bobby Crow, Robbie Turnipseed

2022: Bubba O’Gwynn, Brad Hoffman, Stephen Fitts,  
Jimmy Dawood

2023: Lance Covan

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Offering** – Please mail your check to 2651 Springhill Ave. Mobile, Alabama 36607 or visit [www.covenantpresmobile.org](http://www.covenantpresmobile.org) to give your offering.

**New Member Class** – Interested in joining the fellowship of Covenant Presbyterian? Would you just like to know more about who we are, what we believe, and what it means to be a member? Join us for a new member class on Sunday, March 7, 3:00-5:00 in the church Fellowship Hall. Email [bradee@covenantpresmobile.org](mailto:bradee@covenantpresmobile.org) to RSVP.

**Covenant Boys Bible Club** – All boys 1st through 4th grade are invited today beginning at 12:15 until 1:30. Lunch, fellowship, games and Bible. Make reservations by emailing [marty@covenantpresmobile.org](mailto:marty@covenantpresmobile.org)

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.**

**Community Prayer** – You’re invited to participate in a Community daily prayer time, along with other residents in our city, everyday at noon. We will pray the Lord’s prayer as well as prayers for peace, unity, and healing of our city & nation. We will also have the sanctuary open for prayer every Friday from 9:00a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you would like more information about this or be added to a daily prayer chain, please contact Ted Ferguson at [fergited@gmail.com](mailto:fergited@gmail.com).

**Weekly Emails** – If you would like more information on the latest news and events here at Covenant, please email [bradee@covenantpresmobile.org](mailto:bradee@covenantpresmobile.org) or call the church office at 251-307-5475 to be added to our weekly email distribution list.

### **Mark you summer calendars: Covenant VBS**

June 21-24. More details to follow. Email [marty@covenantpresmobile.org](mailto:marty@covenantpresmobile.org)

**Cypress Grove Academy** – 2021-2022 Enrollment is now open for Cypress Grove Academy, Mobile’s only classical Christian hybrid school! We are currently enrolling grades K-9. We exist to provide students with the joy of a Christ-centered, classical education that nurtures the heart and challenges the mind. If you would like more information, please email us at [cypressgroveacademyed@gmail.com](mailto:cypressgroveacademyed@gmail.com).