

## **Preparing Your Heart for Worship**

September 8, 2024

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“Corporate worship is designed to move the meditation  
of your heart from self-centered complaint to  
God-glorifying praise.”

– Paul David Tripp

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*From Psalm 108:1-4*

Pastor: Our hearts are ready, O Lord, our hearts are ready!

**Congregation: We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!**

Pastor: We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, we will sing praises to you among the nations.

**Together: For your steadfast love is great above the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

## HYMNS OF PRAISE

*“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”*

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds  
In a believer’s ear!  
It soothes his sorrow, heals his wounds,  
And drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
And calms the troubled breast;  
‘Tis manna to the hungry soul,  
And to the weary, rest.

Dear Name, the rock on which I build,  
My shield and hiding place,  
My never failing treasury, filled  
With boundless stores of grace!

Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,  
My Prophet, Priest, and King,  
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,  
Accept the praise I bring.

*“Death Was Arrested”*

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin  
Lost without hope with no place to begin  
Your love made a way to let mercy come in  
When death was arrested and my life began

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains  
My orphan heart was given a name  
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance  
When death was arrested and my life began

Chorus:

Oh Your grace so free washes over me  
You have made me new now life begins with You  
It's Your endless love pouring down on us  
You have made us new now life begins with You

Released from my chains I'm a pris'ner no more  
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore  
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend  
When death was arrested and my life began

Chorus

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross  
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost  
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand  
That's when death was arrested and my life began

Chorus

Bridge (2x):

Oh we're free, free, forever we're free

Come join the song of all the redeemed

Yes we're free, free, forever amen

When death was arrested and my life began

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Because Jesus Christ 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.*

## **OFFERTORY**

*Prayer cards are located in the pews. If you'd like our prayer team to pray for you, please fill out a card and drop it in the offering plate.*

## HYMN OF ASSURANCE

*“Gentle and Lowly”*

Lord, make us servants in your house  
And consider others better than ourselves  
Lord, make us humble, make us meek  
Quick to hear, slow to speak

Chorus:

Make us gentle and lowly in heart  
That we might demonstrate who you are  
For your yoke is easy, and your burden's not hard  
Make us gentle and lowly as you are

Lord, take our burdens, and give us rest  
That we might know the poor in spirit shall be blessed  
Take our ambitions, take our dreams  
Make us still enough for you to wash our feet

Chorus

Bridge:

Make us lovers of the truth  
while loving others who do not trust in you  
Give us courage not to be proud,  
to do the work that goes unnoticed by the crowds  
Hide our right hand from our left,  
do not give us over to self-righteousness  
If love is patient, if love is kind,  
if there's no greater love than laying down our lives

Chorus

## SERMON TEXT

### **John 1:1-18**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to be come children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.



14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Leader: This is the word of the LORD.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON: “The Story of Everything”**

*John 1:1-18*

*Rev. Dr. Alec Flynt*



## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*New City Catechism*

Q32. What do justification and sanctification mean?

**A. Justification means our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us.**

Q33. Should those who have faith in Christ seek their salvation through their own works, or anywhere else?

**A. No, they should not, as everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ. To seek salvation through good works is a denial that Christ is the only Redeemer and Savior.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **Prayer of Belief**

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

### **Prayer of Humble Access**

I do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own goodness, but only in your righteousness credited to me. I am not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose manner is always to show mercy. Grant me, therefore, O Lord, the grace to commune now with Christ by faith, that I may evermore live with him and he in me. Amen.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*“He Will Hold Me Fast”*

When I fear my faith will fail  
Christ will hold me fast  
When the tempter would prevail  
He will hold me fast  
I could never keep my hold  
Through life’s fearful path  
For my love is often cold  
He will hold me fast

Chorus:

He will hold me fast  
He will hold me fast  
For my Savior loves me so  
He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight  
Christ will hold me fast  
Precious in His holy sight  
He will hold me fast  
He’ll not let my soul be lost  
His Promises shall last  
Bought by Him at such a cost  
He will hold me fast

Chorus

For my life He bled and died  
Christ will hold me fast  
Justice has been satisfied  
He will hold me fast  
Raised with Him to endless life  
He will hold me fast  
Till our faith is turned to sight  
When He comes at last

Chorus

## 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.



## **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

**STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Alec Flynt, *Senior Pastor*  
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## **ELDERS**

Bubba O’Gwynn, Forrest Crabtree, Joe Currier, Joe Hastings, Chris Estis, Wes Pipes, Bobby Crow, & David Wilhelm

## **DEACONS**

Don Breter, Kelley Lamberth, Victor Streed, Kenneth Taylor, Linda Turnipseed, Foster Veazey, Kim Padgett, Chad Cross, & Dana Renta

## **UPCOMING AT COVENANT**

**New Life Moms Group** – Moms with babies, join us Friday, September 22 at 10:45 in Fellowship Hall.

**Young Families Lunch & Hang** – Families with young children, join us Sunday, September 22 from 12:00 to 2:00 for lunch and fellowship. Lunch will be served in the Crichton Table Room. RSVP on the website. Email [sonny@covenantpresmobile.org](mailto:sonny@covenantpresmobile.org) with questions.

*continued on the next page*

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

**Youth Group is back!** – Grades 6-10, join us today from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

**Small Groups** – Adult small groups will start up this week. If you're interested in joining a small group, email [lanier@covenantpresmobile.org](mailto:lanier@covenantpresmobile.org)

**Catechism Club** – Calling all fifth graders! Catechism Club is THIS morning in between services from 10:20-10:50 in the Youth Room. We will not meet next Sunday.

**Ladies' Thursday Bible Study** – Join us Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. We have begun our study in the book of Acts. Fall sign-ups are on the website. Questions? Email [kitty@covenantpresmobile.org](mailto:kitty@covenantpresmobile.org)

**Junior and Seniors Biscuits & Bibles** – Join us at Chick-Fil-A on Tuesday (boys) and Wednesday (girls) mornings from 6:30-7:15 for small group Bible study. Questions? Email [sonny@covenantpresmobile.org](mailto:sonny@covenantpresmobile.org)

**New Friday Men's Bible Study** – Join us Friday mornings from 6:30-7:30 as we begin a new study "Faith and Works." Questions? Email [lanier@covenantpresmobile.org](mailto:lanier@covenantpresmobile.org).

**CovGirls Bible Club is back!** First-fourth grade girls, join us this Wednesday after school until 4:15 starting September 11th. We will have playground time, snacks, and hear God's word. Email [whitneybarnett@covenantpresmobile.org](mailto:whitneybarnett@covenantpresmobile.org) with questions or to contribute snacks.