

Morning Worship – 10:45 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Please be seated by 10:45 for the announcements

Silent Preparation

During the few minutes before the service begins, the congregation is invited to a moment of silent and prayerful preparation for worship.

Welcome and Announcements

Visitors, please fill out the Visitor Card in the rack in front of you and place it in the offering plate during the Collection of Tithes and Offerings.

Musical Prelude

ADORATION OF GOD

Call to Worship

Psalm 33:1–3

***Hymn of Praise**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #222)

***Prayer of Invocation and 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.

***Confession of Faith**

Apostles’ Creed

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried; he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and
is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he
will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THANKSGIVING

Scripture Reading

Acts 21:1–16
(Pew Bible Page 930)

Confession of Sin (Silent)

Assurance of God’s Pardoning Grace

Psalm 32:10

Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.

***Psalm of Thanksgiving**

Psalm 96
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #96)

* Congregation Standing

Prayer of Intercession and Dedication

Collection of Tithes and Offerings

***Gloria Patri**

(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #572)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

PROVISION FOR LIFE AND GROWTH

Scripture Reading

John 4:24
(Pew Bible Page 889)

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Sean McCann
Senior Pastor

“Worship”
(The Church on Mission, 1)

***Hymn of Preparation**

O Worship the King
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #219, Verses 1–4)

The Lord’s Supper†

*Invitation and Fencing of the Table
Prayer of Consecration
Words of Institution
Distribution of the Elements
Prayer of Thanksgiving*

RESPONSE AND BLESSING

***Hymn of Response**

O Worship the King
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #219, Verses 5–6)

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

† *The bread we serve for the Lord’s Supper is gluten-free
The inner rings of cups are wine; the outer ring is juice*

* Congregation Standing

The Church on Mission

The late Harry Reeder was famous for his oft-quoted vision for the church’s calling: “on mission, on message, in ministry.” For the church to stay true to her calling, she must stay focused on the mission God has entrusted to her and resist the near-constant pull to focus on other things. In his lifetime of ministry in the PCA, Dr. Reeder empowered a generation of pastors and churches to focus their ministries through the crucial lens of the mission of the church. To help us stay focused on our mission, I have planned a brief sermon series for the new years that will revisit some of our church’s core ministry priorities. In a three-part series entitled *The Church on Mission*, we will explore our mission and how it plays out in our common life together as a church.

Our church’s mission is **to gather and grow disciples in Asheville and around the world**. We have received this mission from the Lord, and through it we aim to glorify the Triune God. There are many ways that a church might seek to accomplish this mission, so for us we have defined a specific strategy. The way in which we seek to execute our mission is this: **we depend on the Spirit’s power to gather and grow disciples by embracing the Ordinary Means of Grace in our worship, nurture, and witness**. The Ordinary Means of Grace are “the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption... especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.” (Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 88) In other words, God makes his grace known to us through ordinary ways, and we depend on the Holy Spirit by embracing those ordinary ways of Word, sacraments, and prayer.

That all sounds great, but what does it mean for the life and ministry of our church? Answering that question will be our task in this brief sermon series. We have three areas of ministry focus where we seek to depend on the Spirit by embracing the Ordinary Means of Grace: worship (focusing upwards), nurture (focusing inwards), and witness (focusing outwards), and we will have a sermon devoted to each area.

First, we will look upwards by examining the ministry of **worship** in a sermon on Jesus’ words to the woman at the well: “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24). At CRCP, we define this ministry as “Bible-filled worship that is expressed in historic and reformed forms.” All true churches worship God, but not all in the same way, so why do we use the forms of worship that we do? What is worship in the first place? How do we expect God to work in and through this ministry of worship? We hope to touch on those questions and more in this sermon.

Second, we will look at the inward ministry of **nurture** through the model of the early church: “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42) As the church looks inward, our task includes shepherding care, spiritual discipleship, and community fellowship. Using Acts as a springboard, we will review our definition of the ministry of nurture: “Spirit-led community that is served by our members and led by our shepherds.”

Finally, we will turn our focus outwards with a sermon on Jesus’ final words to his disciples: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) We call this outward ministry **witness** because it includes how we are called to bear witness both in our local outreach focus, and in our support of international mission efforts. We define the witness ministry as “Church-focused evangelism and mission that is faithful to the Great Commission.”

Our church is committed to this mission and vision, so it is my hope that by returning to these first principles we can refocus and press on in faith to stay on mission and see God work mightily in our midst.

Welcome Visitors! We extend a warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. We are delighted you are here and we are available to answer any questions you may have about our worship service, our church, or even the gospel of Jesus Christ. If you have children they are most welcome in our worship service, and we also provide a nursery for children up to 3 years of age. **Please fill out the Visitor Card located in the rack in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it comes by later in the service.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord's Supper: Today we will celebrate the Lord's Supper at the end of our morning worship service. This sacrament consists of giving and receiving bread and wine (or juice) to show forth the death of Jesus and receive spiritual nourishment. The Lord's Supper is open to everyone who has confessed their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, provided that they have received Christian baptism, are members in good standing in a Bible believing church, and who are not living with secret or unrepentant sin. If you have any questions about these restrictions then please speak with a pastor or elder after the service, we would love to discuss them with you.

Fellowship Meal: We will gather after service today in the Fellowship Hall to share a meal together. If you are visiting with us today, we invite you to stay and join us!

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting: We are aiming to resume meeting on January 15, 2025. However, if we experience any delays in the painting and flooring projects, we may need to postpone a week. Be on the lookout for further announcements.

Men's Breakfast: Join us this coming Saturday, January 11, from 8:00–10:00am for our new Men's Breakfast ministry. We will enjoy a hot breakfast and a message from our guest speaker and former intern, Wilson Goins. This monthly gathering on the second Saturday is open to all men young and old, so please make plans to join us as we grow together. Men's Breakfast is a free event, but registration is requested. Please RSVP by scanning the QR code to the right and following the link.



Prayer Partners: It is time to sign up for the 2025 Women's Prayer Partners. This simple ministry's goal is to foster deep, prayerful relationships among the women of CRPC. All women who are members and 18 or older are invited to sign up! Each year you sign up, you will have a new partner. Sign up online via the email sent out or complete a paper sign up under the WMC bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Madeleine Curtis with questions.

2025 First Sunday Schedule: This year we will have church-wide quarterly Fellowship Meals following morning worship on April 6, July 6, and October 5. Our Shepherding Groups will also meet quarterly on February 2, May 4, August 3, and November 2.

English as a Second Language (ESL): Update: Classes will start back on Monday, January 6. Please be in prayer for this ministry; our desire is not only to serve our community, but also for the gospel to go forth that others may know Christ. If you would like to learn more or find out ways you can volunteer, contact Carol Dangerfield (carolkdangerfield@gmail.com).

Please Excuse Our Mess: Our deacons are coordinating a church building "refresh" that will take a few weeks of landscaping, painting, carpeting, etc.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today, January 5

12:15 pm:
Fellowship Meal

Tuesday, January 7

9:30 am:
Women's Prayer at Gail Albee's home

Wednesday, January 8

6:00 pm:
Youth Game Night at Liner's Home

Thursday, January 9

7:30 am:
R.O.M.E.O.s at Cornerstone Restaurant

Saturday, January 11

8:00am:
Men's Breakfast

Sunday, January 12

9:30 am:
Sunday School
10:45 am:
Morning Worship
6:00 pm:
Evening Worship

CURRENT AND UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, January 5

Greeters:
Anne Moss & Ron McEwen

Security:
Carl Tannenbaum

Nursery:
9:30 am:
Theresa Wallace
Ann Sprinkle

10:45 am:
Dorothy Dillingham
Lucy McCann
Marjorie Dillingham

January Deacons on Duty:

Grey Dixon
Drew Lefevre
Carl Tannenbaum (Usher)

Sunday, January 12

Greeters:
Julia & Nick Mullins

Security:
David McCullough

Nursery:
9:30 am:
Ann Sprinkle
Joy Voigt

10:45 am:
Jennifer McHone
Noe McHone
Fern Roper
6:00 pm:
Susan & David McCullough

Submit bulletin items to office@covenantreformed.net by noon on Thursdays.

If you have a prayer request, please speak to a pastor or elder, call the church office at 828-253-6578, or e-mail ceb392@mac.com and it will be added to our church prayer list.

Senior Pastor: Sean McCann
Associate Pastor: Jim Curtis
Pastoral Interns: Micaiah Liner, David Livernois
Administrative Assistant: David Livernois
Office Hours: 9 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Tuesday—Friday
Elders: Ben Badgely, Rob Cook, Clay Dangerfield, Gordon Meiners, Tom Voigt, Tim Wallace. *Emeritus: Mike Cate*
Deacons: Rich Bishop, Grey Dixon, Jeff Greene, Drew Lefevre, David McCullough, Noe McHone, Carl Tannenbaum
Deacons' Helper: Zach Voigt
Nursery Coordinator: Rebekah Woodard



COVENANT
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

THE LORD'S DAY JANUARY 5, 2025

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to whoever will come—
this church opens wide her doors
and offers her welcome
in the name of the Lord Jesus*

281 Edgewood Road, Asheville, NC 28804
(828) 253-6578

office@covenantreformed.net www.covenantreformed.net