

Morning Worship – 10:45 AM	
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP	
<i>Please be seated by 10:45 for the announcements</i>	
Silent Preparation	
<i>During the few minutes before the service begins, the congregation is invited to a moment of silent and prayerful preparation for worship.</i>	
Welcome and Announcements	
<i>Visitors, please complete the Visitor Card located in the rack in front of you. by filling it out and placing it in the offering plate when it comes by during the Collection of Tithes and Offerings. You may also do so by scanning the QR code and completing a digital card online.</i>	
Musical Prelude	
ADORATION OF GOD	
Call to Worship	Psalm 95:1–3
*Hymn of Praise	We Come, O Christ, to You (Trinity Psalter Hymnal #288)
*Prayer of Invocation and Lord’s Prayer	
<i>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.</i>	
*Confession of Faith	Apostles’ Creed
<i>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.</i>	
CONFESSION OF SIN AND THANKSGIVING	
Scripture Reading	Exodus 21:12–32 (Pew Bible Page 62)
Confession of Sin (Silent)	
Assurance of God’s Pardoning Grace	Psalm 30:4–5
Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.	

* Congregation Standing

*Psalm of Thanksgiving	Psalm 23 (Trinity Psalter Hymnal #23A)
Prayer of Intercession and Dedication	
Collection of Tithes and Offerings	
*Gloria Patri	(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #572)
<i>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.</i>	
PROVISION FOR LIFE AND GROWTH	
Scripture Reading	Romans 15:1–7 (Pew Bible Page 949)
Prayer of Illumination	
Sermon	Rev. Sean McCann Senior Pastor
“Live in Harmony” (Romans: Christ our Righteousness, 45)	
*Hymn of Preparation	In Christ Alone (Trinity Psalter Hymnal #265, Verses 1–2)
The Lord’s Supper†	
<i>Invitation and Fencing of the Table Prayer of Consecration Words of Institution Distribution of the Elements Prayer of Thanksgiving</i>	
RESPONSE AND BLESSING	
*Hymn of Response	In Christ Alone (Trinity Psalter Hymnal #265, Verses 3–4)
*Benediction	
*Postlude	

† The bread served for the Lord’s Supper in the white paper liner is gluten-free
The clear cups are wine; the tinted cups are juice

* Congregation Standing

The Fully Convinced Conscience
Over the past few weeks, we have covered the relationship between the strong and weak in faith in Romans 14:1-15:7. Since it has taken us three sermons to cover this section, I thought it would be good to pause, summarize, and review before we move on.
Identification of the Strong and Weak
The <i>strong in faith</i> are those who are free in Christ to do all that God allows. This includes eating a non-kosher diet and not celebrating holy days. While this practice of freedom from Old Testament regulations often aligns with that of Gentile converts, it is not necessarily so, as Paul himself was a Jewish convert who enjoyed many of these freedoms.
The <i>weak in faith</i> are those who are bound by conscience to laws that are no longer binding. This includes eating only vegetables and esteeming some days as better than others. While this practice of restriction often aligns with that of Jewish converts, it is not necessarily so.
Two factors complicate this further. First, the strength and weakness of each believer are not overarching categories, but specific references to particular issues. For example, a believer may be strong when it comes to diet but weak when it comes to the observance of days, and vice versa. Second, every Christian is growing all the time, so our stance on some issues will evolve as we move from a weaker conscience to a stronger one.
Application to the Strong and Weak
<i>To the Strong</i> – Paul calls them to welcome the weak in faith and not despise them. This welcome is based on the acknowledgment that they are servants who belong to God alone, and in recognition of how they have been welcomed in Christ. Next, the strong are called to “not put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother” (Rom 14:13). This is the most challenging application of all because it calls us to sacrificially give up some of our freedoms for the good of our weaker brothers!
<i>To the Weak</i> – Paul calls them not to judge the strong, “for God has welcomed him” (Rom 14:3), and not to sin against your own conscience, “for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin” (Rom 14:23). In other words, if our conscience tells us something is wrong (even if it is not objectively wrong), then we must obey our conscience, because to disobey our conscience is tantamount to disobeying what God says. But even then, your conscience can only bind you; it cannot require you to sin.
<i>To Everyone</i> – Paul’s presumption in all of this is that each person is fully convinced in his own mind. This means that we are to properly align our conscience with God’s word. Just as a properly trained guard dog barks at the scary man in the mask and wags his tail at the friendly neighbor, so too does a properly aligned conscience convict us to avoid what God forbids and frees us to enjoy what God allows.
When the conscience is out of alignment, it functions like a bad guard dog. On one extreme is the overeager guard dog that barks not only at the scary man but also at the sweet neighbor. This is the conscience of the weak in faith that is pricked by things that are not sin. The other extreme is the lazy guard dog who never barks at anyone, not even the obvious threats. This is not a strong conscience, but rather a calloused one that has grown so tough that it no longer feels the prick of conviction. This is the more dangerous of the two extremes because an under-functioning conscience fails to pull us back from sin.
May God calibrate our conscience according to his word, so that we live in such harmony with one another that together with one voice we might glorify God.

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 complete the Visitor Card located in the rack in front of you by scanning the QR code, or by filling it out and placing it in the offering plate when it comes by later in the service.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord's Supper: This morning we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. 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 please speak with a pastor or elder after the service, we would love to discuss them with you.

Shepherding Groups: At periodic times throughout the year, we gather in groups at the church or in various homes for lunch and a time of prayer. Our Shepherding Groups meet today as follows:

- **East (Voigt):** At the Cate’s home (28 Fairway Drive, Asheville, NC 28805).
- **Far North (Badgley), South (Meiners), & West (Pastoral Staff):** At the church for a brunch themed potluck meal. Visitors are invited to stay.
- **North (Cook):** At home of Jared and Dorothy Dillingham (50 Gill Branch Road, Weaverville, NC 28787).
- **Southeast (Wallace):** At the Golden’s home (142 Mitchell View Road, Swannanoa, NC 28778).

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting: Join us Wednesdays at 6:00 pm for dinner, followed at 6:45 with a time of prayer, Bible study, youth group, children’s classes, and nursery.

Second Breakfast: Our next men’s breakfast gathering is this coming Saturday, October 10, from 8:00–10:00 am. Our speaker for this event will be C.S. Lewis scholar Rev. Doug Falls.

Membership Matters Class: If you have been visiting Covenant Reformed and are interested in pursuing church membership, or if you just want to find out more about our church and what we believe, you are invited to attend our Membership Matters Class. The class will be taught on Sunday mornings beginning October 11. To register for the class, please contact the church office.

Joint Reformation Worship Service: Sunday, October 25 at 5:00 pm at CRPC. Reception to follow.

Missionary of the Month: Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM) is a local ministry functioning alongside local churches to provide services and support which minister to the spiritual, social, physical, economic and emotional needs of our neighbors in Buncombe County. This is accomplished through multiple ministry avenues. To learn more about these various ministries, please visit www.abccm.org. To find out about volunteer opportunities our church is involved in, please contact the church office.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Today, October 4

12:15 pm:
Shepherding Groups

Tuesday, October 6

9:30 am:
Women’s Prayer & Sermon
Question Discussion at Carol
Esther Belz’s Home
10:00am:
Women’s Bible Study
Classroom # 7

Wednesday, October 7

6:00 pm:
Supper, Prayer, Bible Study, Youth
Group & Lessons for Children

Thursday, October 8

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

Saturday, October 10

8:00am:
Second Breakfast

Sunday, October 11

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

CURRENT AND UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, October 4

Greeters:
Hannah & Sam Yoho

Hall Monitor:
Jerry Golden

Nursery:
9:30 am:
Danette & Jim Lowery
10:45 am:
Liz Tannenbaum
Ann Sprinkle
Corbin Tannenbaum

Wednesday, October 7

Nursery:
Lindsey McCann
Deborah Linton

Hall Monitor:
David McCullough

Sunday, October 11

Greeters:
Cherie & Leroy Anderson

Hall Monitor:
Tom Voigt

Nursery:
9:30 am:
Lisa & Andrew Shelton
10:45 am:
Jennifer McHone
Dorothy Dillingham
Laurel Dillingham

6:00 pm:
Suzanne & David McCullough
Mary Neal McCann

October Deacons on Duty:

Carl Tannenbaum
Drew Lefevre
Noe McHone (Usher)

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 prayer@covenantreformed.net

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 Badgley, Rob Cook, Gordon Meiners, Tom Voigt, Tim Wallace.
Emeritus: Mike Cate

Deacons: Grey Dixon, Drew Lefevre, Noe McHone, Carl Tannenbaum
Deacons’ Helper: Zach Voigt
Nursery Coordinator: Deborah Linton



COVENANT
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE LORD’S DAY OCTOBER 4, 2026

*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*

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