

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 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.</i>	
Musical Prelude	
ADORATION OF GOD	
Call to Worship	Psalm 96:1–5
*Hymn of Praise	The Church’s One Foundation <i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #404)</i>
*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 7:1–13 <i>(Pew Bible Page 49)</i>
Confession of Sin (Silent)	
Assurance of God’s Pardoning Grace	Psalm 130:3-4
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.	
*Psalm of Thanksgiving	Psalm 2 <i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #2B)</i>

* Congregation Standing

Prayer of Intercession and Dedication	
Collection of Tithes and Offerings	
*Gloria Patri	<i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #572)</i>
<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	Ephesians 4:7–12 <i>(Pew Bible Page 977)</i>
Prayer of Illumination	
Sermon	Rev. Sean McCann <i>Senior Pastor</i>
“The Lord Gives Officers” <i>(For the Church, 1)</i>	
*Hymn of Preparation	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing <i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #429, Verses 1–2)</i>
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	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing <i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #429, Verse 3)</i>
*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

For the Church

As a distinctively Presbyterian church, we often spend a lot of time and energy explaining and defending why we are Presbyterian. While some of our members grew up in a Presbyterian context and are used to such words as “elder,” “session,” “Presbytery,” etc., most of us come from outside the Reformed world and must learn a new language to function here. (A recent survey of the religious landscape in our area revealed that Asheville Metro has over 100,000 Southern Baptist members, and that the combined total of all the Presbyterian denominations in that same region can barely come to ten percent of that number!) I have several books on my shelves that I regularly loan out on this topic, including such titles as *Welcome to a Reformed Church*, *On Being Presbyterian*, *To Be a Presbyterian*, and my favorite, *How Jesus Runs the Church*. We have a whole section in our Membership Class on this topic and regularly touch on it in our adult Sunday school ministry. And yet, amongst all that Presbyterian explaining and apologizing, we rarely talk about the ways that God works through our system of government. I am guilty here: I can get so caught up in defending the scriptural and theological grounds for Presbyterianism that I neglect to explain and highlight how God works for our good through his officers and courts.

To make up for that neglect, I have planned a brief topical series to start the new year entitled, *For the Church*. (I know, I know, you are dying to get back to Romans, and we will...in just a few more weeks.) In Ephesians 4, Paul writes of how the ascended Lord Jesus Christ gives gifts for the church. Like a king returning victoriously from battle spreads around the bounty from his victory, so too does the resurrected and ascending King Jesus give gifts to men (Eph 4:8). We often think of gifts as the abilities and propensities that God apportions out to individuals so that we – by embracing and improving these gifts – might use them in the service of Christ and his kingdom. In this context, however, Paul is writing of gifts in a slightly different way. Here, the gifts are people, or offices: “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers” (Eph 4:11). These officers (i.e., people called to fill certain offices, or positions) are themselves gifts to the church. They are appointed, called, prepared, and equipped to serve and bless the church. Why? “To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Eph 4:12). By the ministry of officers – a ministry given by Jesus for his bride – we are equipped and built up as the body of Christ.

In this series, I want to consider three steps in how Jesus gives the gift of officers to his church. First, from the above text (Eph 4:7-12), I will unpack the idea that the Lord **gives** officers. Next, we will turn to the classic text on officers and their qualifications, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, to see how the Lord **calls** officers. And finally, we will explore the oft-ignored importance of ordination and the laying on of hands in 2 Timothy 1:3-7 to see how the Lord **equips** officers.

My aim in this series is two-fold. First, I hope to give you a deeper appreciation for how your Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd of the sheep, shepherds and cares for your soul through the officers of his church. Elders and deacons are God’s gift to us, and we thank him for them and aim to draw blessings from these gifts as he intended. Second, our current elders and deacons are praying for more officers, and we are asking the Lord to use these sermons to bring us more officers. We hope this series will “prime the pump” for when we ask for nominations for officers this spring. In God’s kindness to us, he gifts us officers, so join me in asking that he would once again open his storehouse of blessing to give us more.

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.

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting: Join us Wednesdays at 6:00 pm starting this Wednesday, January 7, for dinner, followed at 6:45 with a time of prayer, Bible study, youth group, children’s classes, and nursery.

Nursery Coordinator Search: With great thanks and after many years of wonderful service to our children and nursery volunteers, our beloved coordinator, Bekah Woodard, is stepping down at the end of this year. If you are willing to serve in this role, please contact Pastor Jim (jim@covenantreformed.net) for more information.

Hall Monitors: The deacons are in search of additional volunteers to serve as Hall Monitors. For more information, or to express interest in serving in this capacity, please contact the church office or reach out directly to Carl Tannenbaum (silentmotard@gmail.com).

New Year’s Gathering: Tomorrow, January 5 from 6pm-8pm in the Fellowship Hall, the women's ministry team will host a New Year's Gathering for all of the Women of CRPC. We will be creating one giant charcuterie board to enjoy together. Details and more information on what to bring is posted in the fellowship hall.

Second Breakfast: Our next men’s breakfast will be this coming Saturday, January 10, from 8:00–10:00 am. Our speaker for this event will be former Associate Pastor, Rev. Bill Clark. Rev. Clark currently serves as Interim Pastor at Hazelwood Presbyterian in Waynesville, NC.

Youth Game Night: All youth are invited to a game night at the Liner's house on Friday, January 23, from 6-8:30 pm.

Thank You! As a church staff, we want to thank you for your selfless generosity towards us in the form of the Christmas gifts we received from the church last week. You have so many people to consider for gifts at Christmas and we are honored and humbled that you would think of us. It is a joy to serve you and this church, and we are grateful for your caring support.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Monday, January 5

6:00 pm:
Women’s Gathering

Wednesday, January 7

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

Thursday, January 8

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

Saturday, January 10

8:00 am:
Men’s Breakfast

Sunday, January 11

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



COVENANT
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CURRENT AND UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, January 4

Greeters:
Dannette & Jim Lowery

Hall Monitor:
Carl Tannenbaum

Nursery:
9:30 am:
Lisa & Andrew Shelton
10:45 am:
Jennifer McHone
Noe McHone
Emerson Tannenbaum

Sunday, January 11

Greeters:
Mia & Ian Masters

Hall Monitor:
Scott Carter

Nursery:
9:30 am:
Danette & Jim Lowery
10:45 am:
Cathy O’Brien
Emily Dillingham
Alistar Dillingham
6:00 pm:
Gail & Jim Albee
Stella Dillingham

Wednesday, January 7

Nursery:
Rachel & Ben Badgley
Hall Monitor:
Carl Tannenbaum

January Deacons on Duty:

Grey Dixon
Drew Lefevre
Carl Tannenbaum (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	
<i>Office Hours: 9 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Tuesday—Friday</i>	
Elders:	Ben Badgely, Rob Cook, Gordon Meiners, Tom Voigt (sabbatical) Tim Wallace. <i>Emeritus: Mike Cate</i>
Deacons:	Grey Dixon, Jeff Greene, Drew Lefevre, Noe McHone, Carl Tannenbaum
Deacons’ Helper:	Zach Voigt
Nursery Coordinator:	Rebekah Woodard

THE LORD’S DAY
JANUARY 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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