

Morning Worship – 10:45 AM	
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP	
<i>Please be seated by 10:45 for the announcements</i>	
<b>Silent Preparation</b>	
<i>During the few minutes before the service begins, the congregation is invited to a moment of silent and prayerful preparation for worship.</i>	
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>	
<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>	
<b>Musical Prelude</b>	
ADORATION OF GOD	
<b>Call to Worship</b>	
Psalm 47:1–4	
<b>*Hymn of Praise</b>	
O God beyond All Praising <i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #241)</i>	
<b>*Prayer of Invocation and Lord’s Prayer</b>	
<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>	
<b>*Confession of Faith</b>	
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	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	
Malachi 1:6–14 <i>(Pew Bible Page 801)</i>	
<b>Confession of Sin (Silent)</b>	
<b>Assurance of God’s Pardoning Grace</b>	
Psalm 103:11–13	
For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a Father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.	

\* Congregation Standing

*Psalm of Thanksgiving	Psalm 96 <i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #96)</i>
<b>Prayer of Intercession and Dedication</b>	
<b>Collection of Tithes and Offerings</b>	
*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	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	
1 Peter 4:7–11 <i>(Pew Bible Page 1016)</i>	
<b>Prayer of Illumination</b>	
<b>Sermon</b>	
Rev. Sean McCann <i>Senior Pastor</i>	
“Stewarding Your Spiritual Gifts” <i>(1 Peter: Sojourners in Faith, 15)</i>	
*Hymn of Preparation	Be Thou My Vision <i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #446, Verses 1–3)</i>

<b>The Lord’s Supper†</b>	
<i>Invitation and Fencing of the Table Prayer of Consecration Words of Institution Distribution of the Elements Prayer of Thanksgiving</i>	

RESPONSE AND BLESSING	
<b>*Hymn of Response</b>	
Be Thou My Vision <i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #446, Verses 4–5)</i>	

<b>*Benediction</b>	
<b>*Postlude</b>	

† *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

<b>Suffering in 1 Peter</b>
It is clear by now in our study of 1 Peter that suffering is one of the main themes. Dr. Bill Barclay summarizes the letter's purpose: “Peter wrote his first epistle to encourage Christians to stand firm in the faith in the face of suffering and in light of the glorious inheritance laid up for them.” In our English Bibles, the word suffering appears fifteen times: eleven in the verb form (“to suffer”) and four times as a noun (“sufferings”). As a verb, the Greek word <i>pascho</i> means “to endure suffering,” to “endure something negative,” to “undergo” misfortune or disfavor of men or God. The noun <i>pathema</i> is also rendered “afflictions” or “passions.” (This is why we use the phrase the “passion of Christ” to speak of his suffering.) Both the verb and the noun words are used of both Christ and of his human followers.

<b>The Suffering of Christ</b>
Seven of the fifteen uses of the two words for suffering in 1 Peter refer to Christ. While never explained in detail, the basics of his sufferings are outlined as being “in the flesh” (4:1), analogous to experiencing reviling and threats at the hands of men (2:23), and set against his “subsequent glories.” (1:11) Peter gives two purposes for Christ’s sufferings. First, he suffers as the expiatory and vicarious sacrifice for sin: “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.” (3:18) Second, his suffering serves as a model for our suffering: “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” (2:21). In other words, his suffering is a means of our justification and our sanctification.

<b>The Suffering of Christians</b>
The remaining eight uses of the word refer to the followers of Christ, seven as a verb, and once as a noun. Two emphases emerge in the sufferings of Christians. First, Peter addresses the cause of suffering. Christians are to suffer for doing “good” (2:20; 3:17) and for “righteousness’ sake” (3:14), but not for “doing evil.” (3:17; 4:15) Suffering for evil is just and serves little purpose for the mission of the church, but in contrast, “this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.” (2:19)

The second emphasis is Peter’s encouragement for those who are, like Christ, enduring suffering for doing good. Three particular encouragements stand out. First, we endure suffering <u>by trusting God</u> : “Let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.” (4:19) Jesus trusted God in his suffering (2:23), proving that God is trustworthy. God is sovereign over our suffering and faithful to us during our suffering, so we endure by trusting him, just like Jesus. Second, we endure suffering <u>in community</u> , “knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.” (5:9) Dear sufferer, you are not alone! Not only are you sharing the sufferings of Christ, but also of his body throughout the world. Press on, knowing that you are not alone. And thirdly, we endure suffering <u>knowing it will not last forever</u> : “And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” (5:10) Earlier in his letter, Peter has spoken of the various trials that have grieved the church as going on “for a little while.” (1:6) In the light of our “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” inheritance that is “kept in heaven” for us (1:4), even a lifetime of suffering is only a little while.
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In the words of the Psalmist, “Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.” (Ps 30:5) So obey Christ by doing good, endure the suffering that results from righteousness by following Christ’s exemplary suffering, and entrust yourself to your faithful God, knowing that just as Christ’s suffering came to an end with his glorious resurrection, so too will yours.
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**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.

**Filming Today’s Gathering:** Today we will have a videographer with us filming our Lord’s Day gathering. He is with Reformed Theological Seminary and is producing an alumni spotlight video. You do not need to do anything different, we just want you to be aware of the visitor discreetly filming portions before, during, and after our service.

**Evening Service:** We will not have service this evening, May 4.

**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 following morning worship. All visitors and regular attenders are invited to attend.

- **Cook:** Will meet at the Cook’s home (8 Twin Hills Drive Weaverville, NC 28787).
- **Dangerfield:** Will meet at the Dangerfield’s home (86 Greenwells Glory Dr., Biltmore Lake, NC 28715).
- **Meiners:** Will meet at the church in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Voigt:** Will meet at the Voigt’s home (706 Abbey Circle, Asheville, NC, 28805).
- **Wallace:** Will gather the Bomer’s home (140 Avondale Ridge Road Asheville, NC 28803).

**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:** Join us this coming Saturday, May 10, from 8:00–10:00 am for our Men’s Breakfast ministry. We will enjoy a hot breakfast and a message from our guest speaker, Rev. Trevor Allen. Rev. Allen is the pastor of Fairview Christian Fellowship. This gathering is open to all men, young and old, so please make plans to join us as we grow together. To RSVP, please scan the QR code or email the church office.

**Youth Putt-Putt Night:** Students, celebrate the end of the school year with a game of putt-putt! Where: Tropical Gardens (Patton Ave). When: Friday, May 30, 6:30-8:30 pm. Cost: \$9/student.

**THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR**

<b>Today, May 4</b> Shepherding Groups	<b>Thursday, May 8</b> <b>7:30 am:</b> R.O.M.E.O.s at Cornerstone
<b>Tuesday, May 6</b> <b>9:30 am:</b> Women’s Prayer at Gail Albee’s home	<b>Saturday, May 10</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Second Breakfast
<b>Wednesday, May 7</b> <b>6:00 pm:</b> Supper, Prayer, Bible Study, Youth Group, & Lessons for Children	<b>Sunday, May 11</b> <b>9:30 am:</b> Sunday School <b>10:45 am:</b> Morning Worship <b>6:00 pm:</b> Evening Worship

**CURRENT AND UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS**

<b>Sunday, May 4</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Jeanette & Scott Carter	<b>Sunday, May 11</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Debbie & Mike Cate
<b>Security:</b> Jim Albee	<b>Security:</b> David McCullough
<b>Nursery:</b> <b>9:30 am:</b> Lisa & Andrew Shelton <b>10:45 am:</b> Lucy McCann Theresa Wallace Henry Tannenbaum	<b>Nursery:</b> <b>9:30 am:</b> Jeanette & Scott Carter <b>10:45 am:</b> Jennifer McHone Cathy O’Brien Marjorie Dillingham <b>6:00 pm:</b> Gloria Boothe Ron McEwen
<b>Wednesday, May 7</b> <b>Security:</b> Carl Tannenbaum <b>Nursery:</b> Dorothy Dillingham Bonnie Cook	<b>May Deacons on Duty:</b> Carl Tannenbaum Jeff Greene Noe McHone (Usher)

Submit bulletin items to [office@covenantreformed.net](mailto: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](mailto: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:** Grey Dixon, Jeff Greene, Drew Lefevre, Noe McHone, Carl Tannenbaum  
**Deacons’ Helper:** Zach Voigt  
**Nursery Coordinator:** Rebekah Woodard



**THE LORD’S DAY**  
**MAY 4, 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](mailto:office@covenantreformed.net)    [www.covenantreformed.net](http://www.covenantreformed.net)