

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 105:1–3

*Hymn of Praise

When Morning Gilds the Skies
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #157)

*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 25:1–27
(Pew Bible Page 934)

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 100
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #100B)

* 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

1 Peter 2:1–3
(Pew Bible Page 1014)

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Sean McCann
Senior Pastor

“The Goodness of God”
(1 Peter: Sojourners in Faith, 6)

*Hymn of Preparation

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #202, Verses 1–3)

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

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #202, Verses 4–5)

*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 Exile Paradigm

A paradigm is a way to understand the world around us. As we grow and mature, we often experience “paradigm shifts” in which our assumptions about the world and approach to life are fundamentally changed. Peter gives us one of the most shaping paradigms (and paradigm shifts) in Scripture: the exile. There is much Old Testament background to that idea, but after just one chapter in his first epistle, we have sufficient information on how Peter employs the exile image. Namely, he uses it to shift our paradigm in how we live in this world awaiting the return of Jesus.

First, Exiles Are New Creations

Christians who are born anew in Christ receive a new nature, a new identity, and a new citizenship. We are a people with a heavenly citizenship, living in the foreign land of earth, awaiting our ultimate return home to heaven. Our inheritance in heaven is Christ and all his blessings, and that inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading (1 Peter 1:4). We are not strangers without a home; we are sojourners heading toward our home. In making all things new, God starts with us.

Second, Exiles Suffer the Old Creation

The paradigm of exile teaches us that life must involve suffering, for our experience in a foreign land is the experience of suffering. We are never fully home, we are never totally at rest, and we are always moving towards, and even anxious for, our arrival in glory. In this way, Peter’s paradigm explains our suffering, for we are simply following the path of Christ, who had nowhere to lay his head on this earth, who was rejected by man, and who was even exiled at his death and burial. There is no way around it: exile means suffering.

Third, Exiles Live as A New People in The Old World

As exiles, we are journeying somewhere, and along the way, our journey is characterized by certain traits. God does not merely leave us to do whatever we want until he comes back, rather, because of our new birth in Christ, we are formed and being formed after the image of God. Midway through Chapter One, Peter turns to give instructions to the exiles. Starting at the end of Chapter Two, he will give specific instructions, but before he gets there, he gives us four broad, overarching commands. Each command summarizes a major theme of our exile life together. For the sake of memory, we can summarize the commands: *hope, holy, love, and long.*

First, Peter instructs us to “set your *hope* fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:13). Without hope, we will barely endure the long journey to our heavenly home. But with the sure and solid hope that God has secured for us in Christ, we can - by his strength - endure anything.

The next call is the same one that echoes throughout the Old Testament: “be *holy*” (1:15). The land through which we journey in exile is unholy, but we are a set apart people characterized not by the nature of our neighbors and the world around us, but by the nature of our holy God.

Third, we are commanded to “*love* one another earnestly from a pure heart” (1:22). We have been set apart and born again to love, and love is the atmosphere of the pilgrim wagon train. Through this love, we support and encourage one another along the way.

Finally, Peter calls us to “*long* for the pure spiritual milk” (2:2). Like Odysseus, we are tempted to long after the Siren calls of this world, so we must endure by putting those things off and longing for the goodness and grace of God and his gospel. If indeed we have tasted that the Lord is good, then we press on by longing for more of him.

As I said in my first sermon on the theme of exile, if we have not experienced this paradigm shift, then we are in danger of drift or despair. But if we allow Peter to shape our understanding of our place in the world, then we will be equipped and enabled to rejoice even as we are grieved by various trials.

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 for dinner, followed at 6:45 with a time of prayer, Bible study, youth group, children's classes, and nursery.

ABCCM Collection: Remember to bring canned goods and staples for Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry next Sunday, to put in the collection box by the door in the Fellowship Hall.

Spring High School Youth Retreat: March 7 – 9 at Bonclarken Conference Center. Cost: \$50 per student. What this includes: lodging, meals, and retreat activities. See Micaiah for more details.

Second Breakfast: Join us on Saturday, March 8, from 8:00-10:00am for our Men's Breakfast ministry. We will enjoy a hot breakfast and a message from our guest speaker, Rev. Mike Thompson. Mike has served as the senior pastor of Faith Morganton PCA since 2007. This gathering is open to all men, young and old, so please make plans to join us as we grow together. Registration is requested. Scan the QR code and follow the link to RSVP.



A Month of Showers: This month we have the wonderful privilege of celebrating multiple milestones in the lives of our sisters in the church. We hope you can join us as we celebrate God's goodness and encourage one another in our shared life together. Women of CRPC, please mark your calendars for the following special events:

- Deborah Linton Baby Shower—March 4, 6:00—8:00 pm
- Jessica Webb Baby Shower—March 21, 6:00—8:00 pm
- Mia Sander Bridal Shower—March 29, 3:00—5:00 pm

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 3
9:30 am:
 Women's Prayer at Gail Albee's home

Wednesday, March 5
6:00 pm:
 Supper, Prayer, Bible Study, & Lessons for Children

Thursday, March 6
7:30 am:
 R.O.M.E.O.s at Cornerstone Restaurant,
10:00 am:
 Women's Bible Study

Saturday, March 8
8:00 am:
 Second Breakfast

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

CURRENT AND UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, March 2
Greeters:
 Jennifer Tate
 Jonathan Tate

Security:
 Noe McHone

Nursery:
9:30 am:
 Andrew Shelton
 Theresa Wallace
10:45 am:
 Jennifer & Noe McHone
 Fern Roper

Wednesday, March 5
Nursery:
 Rachel & Ben Badgley
Security:
 David McCullough

Sunday, March 9
Greeters:
 Joy Voigt
 Tom Voigt

Security:
 Rich Bishop

Nursery:
9:30 am:
 Lannae Graham
 Joy Voigt
10:45 am:
 Lindsey McCann
 Ann Sprinkle
 Ellie McCann
6:00 pm:
 Nancy Little & Ron McEwen

March Deacons on Duty:
 Drew Lefevre
 Carl Tannenbaum
 Jeff Greene (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 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



COVENANT
 REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

THE LORD'S DAY

MARCH 2, 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*

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