

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 98:4–6	
<b>*Hymn of Praise</b>	Angels, from the Realms of Glory <i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #313)</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>	Luke 1:39–56 <i>(Pew Bible Page 856)</i>
<b>Confession of Sin (Silent)</b>	
<b>Assurance of God’s Pardoning Grace</b>	Psalm 130:7–8
O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.	
<b>*Psalm of Thanksgiving</b>	Psalm 84 <i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #84B)</i>
<i>* Congregation Standing</i>	

<b>Prayer of Intercession and Dedication</b>	
<b>Collection of Tithes and Offerings</b>	
<b>*Gloria Patri</b>	<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>	Exodus 34:6–7 <i>(Pew Bible Page 74)</i>
<b>Prayer of Illumination</b>	
<b>Sermon</b>	Rev. Sean McCann <i>Senior Pastor</i>
“The Promise of Pardon” <i>(Advent: Precious Promises 2)</i>	
<b>*Hymn of Preparation</b>	Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor <i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #324, Verses 1–2)</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>	Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor <i>(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #324, Verse 3)</i>
<b>*Benediction</b>	
<b>*Postlude</b>	
<i>† 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</i>	
<i>* Congregation Standing</i>	

<b>Precious Promises</b>	
This past year, I was gifted a book that has richly blessed me, and I hope to pass that blessing on to you in the sermon series that we began last Sunday. The book, <i>The Wells of Salvation Opened</i> by William Spurstowe, is best explained by its lengthy subtitle: “A Treatise Discovering the Nature, Preciousness, Usefulness of Gospel Promises, and Rules for the Right Application of Them.” In other words, what are the promises of God, and how can we lay hold of them to strengthen our faith? As alluded to in the title, Spurstowe compares the promises of God to a “well of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation”), and his book is essentially a manual for how to draw and drink deeply of those great promises.	
To that end, he gives ten “Positive Rules” for the right use of the promises; and it is his seventh rule that gives rise to this series: “Make Choice of Some Special Promises to Resort to in Extremity.” He states that while there are a multitude of promises that we ought to familiarize ourselves with, to prepare ourselves for times of trouble, we ought to select a few key texts that we might quickly access for support and comfort. Just as we all have a favorite pill or powder in the medicine cabinet that we first turn to when an ailment arises, so too ought Christians have some go-to promises: “Which upon every occasion that may befall them, they may quickly have recourse unto, both for support and comfort.” After the opening sermon on the nature of promises from 2 Peter 1:4 (“by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises”), I aim to follow Spurstowe’s guidance in finding a promise to meet each of the three most common afflictions we face.	
<b>A Promise for Those Burdened with Guilt:</b> “Are any burdened with the guilt of sin, so as that their soul draws nigh unto the pit of despair? What more joyful tidings can ever their ears hear than a proclamation of free mercy made by the Lord Himself unto believing and repenting sinners?” Of the many places we could go for the promise of <i>pardon</i> , no place reveals God’s character as simply and directly as his proclamation to Moses in Exodus 34:6–7: “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.”	
<b>A Promise for Those Full of Fears:</b> “To them who are full of fears through the approach of dangers which they have no hope to avoid or power to overcome.” This describes so many of us, does it not? And even when the threats are not that bad, how often are we still burdened and paralyzed with fear? In this second promise, we will return to Isaiah and consider his mighty assurance of <i>protection</i> : “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you” (43:2).	
<b>A Promise for Those in Bad Condition:</b> “Lastly, to them, the meanness of whose condition may seem to expose them above others to hunger, cold, nakedness, evils that make life itself far more bitter than death, how full of divine sweetness is that blessed promise of <i>provision</i> ?” Jesus teaches us to pray for our daily bread, and this promise encourages us to believe that God delights to answer that very prayer: “Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing” (Psalm 34:10).	
Each of these promises is a great reminder of God’s fatherly care, but they must not be considered outside of the work of Jesus on our behalf. For that reason, I plan to cap off the series with a Christmas Eve sermon that presents Christ as the fulfillment of every promise: “For all the promises of God find their Yes in him”(2 Corinthians 1:20a).	
I hope you can join us for this series and come away with a deeper appreciation and application of the promises of 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 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.

**“Precious Promises” Sermon Series:** This month we pause in our study of Romans to look at some of the great promises found in Scripture. Entitled “Precious Promises” (from 2 Peter 1:4, our first text), this series will draw from the deep wells of God’s promises of pardon, protection, and provision, and culminate on Christmas Eve in a reflection on how all the promises of God are Yes and Amen in Jesus Christ.

**Children’s Christmas Eve Choir:** The children of the church (2-year-olds—5th grade) will sing a choral piece at the Christmas Eve service. The children will practice during the first ten minutes of the Sunday School hour on December 7, 14, and 21. Please try to have your kids on time for Sunday school to help the teachers not miss too much of their teaching time. If you have any questions, contact Lindsey McCann (lmccann24@gmail.com).

**Ugly Christmas Sweater Party:** The Youth Ministry will be throwing our annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Party! Friday, Dec. 12th at 6pm-8:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Students, please bring a finger food to share. One dish per family.

**Christmas Eve Service:** Join us on Wednesday, December 24, at 5:00 pm for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve service. This service of Lessons and Carols is a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor who might not feel comfortable attending a regular worship service.

**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).

**THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, December 9**  
**9:30 am:**  
Women’s sermon discussion and prayer at Gail Albee’s home

**Thursday, December 11**  
**7:30 am:**  
R.O.M.E.O.s at Cornerstone

**Friday, December 12**  
**6:00pm:**  
Youth Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 14**  
**9:30 am:**  
Sunday School  
**10:45 am:**  
Morning Worship  
**6:00 pm:**  
Evening Worship

**CURRENT AND UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS**

**Sunday, December 7**  
**Greeters:**  
Elaine & George Goosmann

**Hall Monitor:**  
Willy Woodard

**Nursery:**  
**9:30 am:**  
Lisa & Andrew Shelton  
**10:45 am:**  
Cathy O’Brien  
Liz Tannenbaum  
Fern Roper

**Sunday, December 14**  
**Greeters:**  
Lori & Mike Jusino

**Hall Monitor:**  
Tom Voigt

**Nursery:**  
**9:30 am:**  
Danette & Jim Lowery  
**10:45 am:**  
Sara Liner  
Emily Dillingham  
Mary Neal McCann  
**6:00 pm:**  
Gail & Jim Albee  
Ellie McCann

**December 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  
*Office Hours: 9 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Tuesday—Friday*  
**Elders:** Ben Badgely, Rob Cook, Gordon Meiners, Tom Voigt (sabbatical)  
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**  
**DECEMBER 7, 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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