

We glorify God by loving Him and loving people.



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP THE LORD'S DAY

**January 4, 2026
10:30AM & 5:00PM**

Rev. Dr. Paul Sagan, Senior Pastor

Covenant Church
A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America
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Apart from Christ we can do nothing.

MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

† Call to Worship

Psalm 95:6-9

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

⁷ For He is our God,
and we are the people of His pasture,
and the sheep of His hand.

Today, if you hear His voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

⁹ when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof, though they had seen
my work.

† *Please stand if able.*

† Invocation

Minister

† Lord's Prayer

Unison

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.

† Psalm of Praise

TPH 91B

Who with God Most High Finds Shelter

† Please stand if able.

Prayer of Confession of Sin

*John Calvin,
1545*

O Lord God, eternal and almighty Father, we confess and sincerely acknowledge before Your holy Majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in iniquity and corruption, prone to do evil, incapable of any good, and that in our depravity we transgress Your holy commandments without end or ceasing; therefore we purchase for ourselves, through Your righteous judgment, our ruin and perdition. Nevertheless, O Lord, we are grieved that we have offended You, and we condemn ourselves and our sins with true repentance, beseeching Your grace to relieve our distress. O God and Father, most gracious and full of compassion, have mercy upon us in the name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And as You do blot out our sins and stains, magnify and increase in us day by day the grace of Your Holy Spirit; that as we acknowledge our unrighteousness with all our heart, we may be moved by that sorrow which shall bring forth true repentance in us, mortifying all our sins, and producing in us the fruits of righteousness and holiness which are pleasing to You, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

† *Please stand if able.*

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 103:2-5

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
 and forget not all His benefits,
³ who forgives all your iniquity,
 who heals all your diseases,
⁴ who redeems your life from the pit,
 who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
⁵ who satisfies you with good
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

† Hymn of Assurance

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

TPH 245

† Please stand if able.

Q. 1 *What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Q. 2 *How many things must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?*

Three: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am delivered from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

Pastoral Prayer

Minister

Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

*Pew Bible page
number 809*

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Paul Sagan

“The Temptation in the Wilderness”

Introduction

I. The Temptation in the Wilderness (v. 1-2)

II. The First Temptation (v. 3-4)

III. The Second Temptation (v. 5-7)

IV. The Third Temptation (v. 8-10)

V. Lessons for Us (v. 11)

Conclusion

† *Please stand if able.*

Offertory

TPH 246

Though Troubles Assail Us

verses 1-2

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

† Doxology

TPH 567

† Prayer of Dedication

Minister

† Hymn of Preparation

TPH 246

Though Troubles Assail Us

verses 3-4

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

† Hymn of Response

All Glory Be to Christ

see insert

† Benediction

Minister

Postlude

† Please stand if able.

Words by Dustin Kensrue

All Glory Be to Christ

Music: "Auld Lang Syne"
Arrangement by Dustin Kensrue

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† Please stand if able.

EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Minister

† Hymn of Confession

TPH 180

Kind and Merciful God, We Have Sinned

Pastoral Prayer

Minister

† Please stand if able.

Scripture Reading**Daniel 5:1-31***Pew Bible
page number
741***Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Paul Sagan

“The Handwriting on the Wall”

Introduction

I. Belshazzar's Blasphemy (v. 1-4)

II. Belshazzar's Message from God (v. 5-9)

III. The Message and its Meaning (v. 10-23)

IV. The Promotion of Daniel (v. 24-29)

V. The End of Belshazzar (v. 30-31)

Conclusion

† Hymn of Response**TPH 234****The God of Abraham Praise****† Benediction***Minister***Postlude****† Please stand if able.**

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday	Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-11	How are the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness alike? How are they different?
Tuesday	Matthew 4:2; Deuteronomy 9:9-25; Exodus 24:18 & 34:28	How is Jesus' temptation in the wilderness similar to Moses' receiving the 10 commandments?
Wednesday	Matthew 4:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 3:5; Deuteronomy 8:3	Where does Jesus' temptation come from? How does Jesus respond to temptation?
Thursday	Matthew 4:5-6; Psalm 91:11-12; Deuteronomy 6:16; Exodus 17:1-7	In what way does Satan tempt Jesus to put God to the test? How do we do so?
Friday	Matthew 4:8-10; Ephesians 2:2 & 6:12; 1 John 5:19; Luke 4:6	Did Satan have a right to offer the world to Jesus?
	Matthew 26:39; Luke 12:50	Was the temptation real?
Saturday	Matthew 4:11; Luke 4:13; Matthew 16:23; Luke 22:28; Hebrews 2:18	How does Satan continue to attack Jesus throughout His ministry?

† Please stand if able.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday	12:00pm Men's Bible Study
Wednesday	5:30 pm Fellowship Meal 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting (childcare provided) Youth Group (6-12 th grade)
	7:00pm Choir Meeting
Thursday	9:30am Men's Coffee at Rick's Bakery 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Thursday Evening Fellowship <i>1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month</i>
Friday	6:00am Men's Larger Catechism Study
Saturday	9:00am Spanish/English Bible Study <i>Springdale Public Library</i>

Events with no listed location will meet at the church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ladies Thursday Bible Study will begin a new 19-week Ligonier series January 8th based on the well-known allegory Pilgrims Progress taught by Derek Thomas. Study guides will be available the first week of January. Please contact Denise Sagan for more information.

Church officer nominations will remain open through January 15th. Nomination forms are available at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to nominate someone, please confirm that he is willing to serve **before** submitting the form.

Mark your calendars for February 27th to March 1st for our annual Missions conference. Dave Culmer, one of the missionaries we support through Faith Promise will be the Plenary speaker. More details to follow.

We are greatly in need of more volunteers to serve our children in the nursery during worship. Nursery service is open to men with younger children and women. Even if you can only serve a semester, please prayerfully consider helping serve our church in this way. Contact Rachel Carl for about joining this important ministry.

Ladies, mark your calendars to celebrate the coming Maxey and Gaesswitz babies. Samantha Maxey's Baby shower is on January 10th, and Chandler Gaesswitz's Baby Shower will be on February 7th. More details to come.



The registry link will be included in the weekly email

† *Please stand if able.*

NURSERY SCHEDULE

Date**Jan. 4****Worship**

Joshua Shaw, Brittney Reynolds,
Liesl Jarvis

Jan. 11

Gizelle Mrosak, Rachel Carl, Kristyn Ersteniuk

Jan. 18

Amy Gaessewitz, Katie Albery, Kathi Stayman

Jan. 25

Karine Kirkland, Leslie Shaw, KirbyAnn Carl

ELDERS & DEACONS OF COVENANT CHURCH

SESSION

Jordan Carl

Jeff Chewning, *Stated Clerk of Session*

Pete Golden

Harrison Howle

Nathan Jarvis

Rick (Dow) Pursley *Emeritus*

Paul Sagan, *Moderator*

Phil Schenewerk

Deacons

Darin Akerman

Ken Andersen

Jim Dooley *Emeritus*

Mike Golden

John Smith

Dennis Smith *Emeritus*

Nathan Taylor