#### 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 Isaiah 12:4–6

\*Hymn of Praise

O God beyond All Praising (Trinity Psalter Hymnal #241)

#### \*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 17:16–34 (Pew Bible Page 926)

## **Confession of Sin (Silent)**

# **Assurance of God's Pardoning Grace**

1 John 2:1–2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Psalm 110 (Trinity Psalter Hymnal #110B)

# **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** 

Isaiah 60 (Pew Bible Page 619)

**Prayer of Illumination** 

Sermon

Rev. Sean McCann Senior Pastor

"A New Day" (Isaiah: Holiness By Grace, 43)

\*Hymn of Preparation

When I Survey the Wonderous Cross (*Trinity Psalter Hymnal #338, 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

When I Survey the Wonderous Cross (Trinity Psalter Hymnal #338, verse 4)

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

### Songs in the Night

How would you describe how you have been feeling lately? Worried? Angry? Smelly? Exhausted? Sad? There are not enough characters from the movie *Inside Out* to describe the many emotions we have all felt in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. I recently described my feelings to a friend as a "malaise." I am safe and have my basic needs met, but I live in a place that is still reeling: no drinking water in the pipes, evidence of devastation all around us, and a general sense of weariness. We are so ready for this all to be over, but we are worried about how long it will take, and who and what might not make it through. For many of us this is a unique mix of emotions, and a mix not likely to end any time soon. But despite how unique it may be in our lives; it is not unique in redemptive history.

Throughout world history, God's people have endured devastation and destruction and learned to live in the aftermath by trusting the plan and mercy of God. Ever since the fall, no generation has been without their share of pain and sorrow. From the flood to the famine that sent Joseph to Egypt, from the oppression under Pharoah to the exile – and much more in between – God has worked his sovereign and saving purposes in and through suffering. And he has taught his people how to suffer in faith by trusting in him. Maybe the greatest collective suffering for God's people in history was the defeat and destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. Much of scripture was written the aftermath of that crushing defeat to show God's people how to pray and sorrow and lament; how to grieve, but not "as others do who have not hope." (1 Thess 4:13). In the aftermath of COVID, I preached through Lamentations – a book that laments the fall of Jerusalem – to learn how to lament in faith. And now in the aftermath of Helene, I plan to do something similar.

Next week we will begin a short evening sermon series through a section of the psalms that deal with the themes of disaster and destruction. We are entitling this series "Songs in the Night," named from Psalm 77:6 "Let me remember my song in the night." Dr. O. Palmer Robertson identifies Psalms 77-83 as a "special collection of seven psalms that underscores the theme of the nation's devastation." These psalms take us not only through the fall of Jerusalem (Ps 79), but also cover the fall of the northern kingdom to Assyria in 722 BC (Ps 80). They are filled with the cry that we have become all too familiar with (at least when it comes to our water): "How long?" "How long will you be angry with your people's prayers?" (80:4) "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?" (82:2) These cries teach us how to lament in faith, but they do not leave us there.

In what Dr. Robertson calls the "central psalm of this special collection," Psalm 80 offers a refrain (repeated with greater and greater intensity) that could easily be the prayer of our day: "Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!" (Ps 80:3, 7, 19) We would all do well to study these prayers – both of lament and hope – and make them the prayers of our heart. So come, join us on Sunday evenings starting next week, that we might learn to sing songs in the night and in so doing find rest for our souls in the great Shepherd of Israel (Ps 80:1)

<sup>\*</sup>Psalm of Thanksgiving

<sup>†</sup> The bread we serve for the Lord's Supper is gluten-free The inner rings of cups are wine; the outer ring is juice

<sup>\*</sup> Congregation Standing

<sup>\*</sup> Congregation Standing \* Congrega

Welcome Visitors! We extend a warm welcome to all who are worshiping 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.

**Shepherding Groups:** Shepherding groups will meet this month according to the dates below. If you are visiting us today, we welcome you to stay after service and join the group meeting here in our fellowship hall.

- Badgley— will meet today following morning worship, at the McCann residence (631 Woodland Knolls, Asheville) for brunch.
- Cook— will meet Sunday, November 10 following morning worship, at the Cook's home (8 Twin Hills Drive, Weaverville).
- **Dangerfield** will meet later this month. Date to be determined.
- Meiners— will meet today following morning worship, at the
- Voigt— will meet today following morning worship, at Carol Ester Belz home (392 Old Haw Creek Road, Asheville)
- Wallace— will meet today following morning worship, at the Wallace's home (31 Meadow Brook Drive, Fletcher).

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting: Join us Wednesdays at 6:00 pm for dinner, followed at 6:45 with a time of prayer, Bible study, children's classes, and nursery.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes: Stop by the OCC display in the church foyer to pick up empty shoeboxes, brochures and labels. We will collect your gift-filled shoeboxes on November 17. Please contact Bonnie Cook (weavervillecooks@gmail.com, 828-779-1962) with any questions.

Disaster Assistance: We are asking that each household fill out an Assistance Form (sent to your email) irrespective of the level of impact felt—whether it was directly from the storm or a resulting effect. This is the quickest way for us to respond to the needs around us. Once we have these forms, we will be sending our own CRPC assessors to follow up and guide you through any necessary steps prior to recovery team efforts. Our deacons have established a disaster recovery fund, so, in addition to the form, please contact a pastor, shepherding elder, or deacon with any needs that you have or are aware of.

# THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today, November 3 Sunday, November 10

12:15

Morning Worship **Shepherding Groups** 

6:00 pm: Wednesday, November 6 **Evening Worship** 

6:00 pm:

Supper, Prayer, Bible Study, and Lessons for Children

Wednesday, November 13

6:00 pm:

10:45 am:

Supper, Prayer, Bible Study, and Lessons for Children



# CURRENT AND UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, November 3 Sunday, November 10 **Greeters:** 

Greeters:

Carol Belz & Gloria Boothe Cherie & Leroy Anderson

**Security: Security:** Norm Bomer John Callahn

**Nursery: Nursery:** 10:45 am: 10:45 am:

Danette & Jim Lowery Jennifer & Noe McHone Fern Roper

Solomon Eckley

6:00 pm:

Gail & Jim Albee

Wednesday, November 6 **November Deacons on Duty:** 

**Nurserv:** Carl Tannenbaum Bonnie & Jerry Golden David McCullough **Security:** Grey Dixon (Usher) Norm Bomer

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

Ben Badgely, Rob Cook, Clay Dangerfield, Gordon Meiners, Tom Voigt, Elders:

Tim Wallace. Emeritus: Mike Cate

**Deacons:** Rich Bishop, Grey Dixon, Jeff Greene, Drew Lefevre, David McCullough, Noe

McHone, Carl Tannenbaum

Deacons' Helper: Zach Voigt

Nursery Coordinator: Rebekah Woodard

# THE LORD'S DAY NOVEMBER 3, 2024

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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