

## Covenant Presbyterian Church

1901 Milton Street, Monroe, LA 71201

Rev. John T. Mabray - Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Wagner - Associate Pastor

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Monday thru Friday

Office Phone: 323-8292 covpres2010@gmail.com FAX 322-8444

Covenant Day School - Director: Melissa Dollar

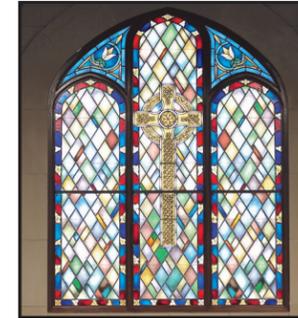
Phone: 323-0235 covenantpresday@gmail.com

Visit our website: <http://covenantpc.com>

Recent sermons are available on-line or by CD in church office.

If you would like an audio-recorded copy of today's sermon, you may request one from the church office. \$2.00 will cover the expense of the CD recording.

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**C O V E N A N T**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC)

**March 17, 2019**

**The Service for the Lord's Day**

**10:30 A.M.**

**The Second Sunday in Lent**

+ Worshipers arriving late may be seated.

\* The congregation will please stand.

### This Week At Covenant

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
<b>March 17</b>	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Young Mothers' Group ~ Fireside Room
<b>March 19</b>	5:45 p.m.	Officers' Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:45 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
<b>March 20</b>	6:00 p.m.	Ladies Bible Study ~ Fireside Room

### Next Week At Covenant

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
<b>March 24</b>	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Young Mothers' Group ~ Fireside Room
<b>March 26</b>	11:00 a.m.	Senior Saints' Bible Study
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:45 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
<b>March 27</b>	6:00 p.m.	Ladies Bible Study ~ Fireside Room

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**The Season of Lent** is that forty-day period (not counting Sundays) in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The forty days of Lent commemorate Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness, during which he was tempted by Satan and remained faithful to God.

In the Reformed/Presbyterian tradition, there are no binding directives concerning fasting or other observances of Lent. Lenten themes include the call to discipleship, self-denial, cross-bearing, contrition for sin, and the continual call to repentance as we trust in Jesus Christ, our Savior who denied himself and suffered death on the cross for us – *themes which are appropriate in every season every day of our lives.*

These themes will be reflected in the liturgy, hymns, prayers, and sermons during the season of Lent, as we look forward to the annual commemoration of Christ's victory over death and the grave on Resurrection Sunday, Easter, which this year falls on April 21.

**+The Greetings, Announcements, and Registry of Fellowship**

**+The Prelude: "God of Grace"**

*God of grace, amazing wonder, irresistible and free;*

*Oh, the miracle of mercy, Jesus reaches down to me.*

*God of grace, I stand in wonder, as my God restores my soul:*

*His own blood has paid my ransom, awesome cost to make me whole.*

**\*The Call to Worship (responsively): based on Psalm 130**

*Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice!*

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

*If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?*

**But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.**

*I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;*

**My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.**

**+\*The Hymn of Praise: "Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery"**  
(please see insert)

**The Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

## The Assurance of Pardon

+\*The Hymn of Assurance: “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”  
Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign Die!  
Would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I!

Was it for crimes that I had done he groaned upon the tree!  
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in,  
when Christ, the mighty Maker, died for man the creature’s sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears;  
dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes in tears.

But drops of grief can ne’er repay the debt of love I owe;  
here, Lord, I give myself away, ‘tis all that I can do.

## The Special Time for Young Disciples

(Children in Kindergarten and younger may be dismissed to Catechism Time.  
Children in 1st grade and above are to remain in the Worship Service.)

## The Prayer for Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture: Mark 12:1-12 (p.848)

The Proclamation of the Gospel: “*The Stone that the Builders Rejected*”  
(#9 in the series based on The Gospel of Mark) Pastor Wagner

## The Prayer for a Right Response to God’s Word

### The Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*The Gloria: “Praise and Glory to the Father...” REGENT SQUARE

Praise and glory to the Father,  
Praise and glory to the Son,  
Praise and glory to the Spirit:  
ever Three and ever One!  
One in might and One in glory,  
While unending ages run!

## The Invitation to Discipleship and Body Life

### Moment for Mission: Young Lives Mission

### Commissioning Prayer upcoming Guatemala Mission

### The Celebrations and Concerns of the Church

### The Pastoral Prayer, concluding with The Lord’s Prayer (in 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.

### The Reception of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

### The Offertory: “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” Stuart Townend

How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure;  
That He should give his only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished.  
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ; His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

### \*The Doxology: “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him, above ye heav’nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen!

### The Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison):

Everlasting Father, in response to your mercies, we present ourselves, all that we have, all that we are, as a living sacrifice to your praise and glory! We offer that which we have first received from your hand; and we pray that you will bless and multiply this offering, and use it for the strengthening of your Church and the increase of your Kingdom throughout the world; to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who offered himself for us. Amen.

\*The Hymn: “In Christ Alone” (please see insert)

### \*Benediction

\*The Congregational Response: “A-men, A-men, A-men!”

### \*The Postlude

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