

Covenant Congregational Church

First Sunday of Lent

Worship Gathering February 18, 2018 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE Spirit Song arr. Carter

INTROIT Christ We Do All Adore Thee Dubois

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Sheri Anderson

*SONG 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) Insert

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Psalm 103)

Holy and Merciful God,

We confess to you our forgetfulness.

We confront today our waywardness.

We accept Lord that we are sinful.

To turn to our past is to recall both Your great acts of love and kindness...

as well as many moments and situations where we know we failed You.

Even still...Your love remains.

And so in humility and brokenness we pray

We ask You to forgive.

We ask Lord that You would heal.

Buy us back, Lord, redeem us from our slavery to ourselves and our own way.

Crown us again with Your acceptance and care.

Satisfy the real thirst of our soul.

Renew us with the strength that only You can give.

Reveal Yourself to us again as a God of grace...

Rich in mercy, patient with our wandering.

As far as the rising sun is from the setting sun,

remove our sin from us.

Our lives are dust.

Our existence is temporary.

Our breathe, a gift from You.

Today, Lord, and together, Lord, we declare...

our affection, our adoration, and our praise for You.

In the holy and loving name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Choral Offertory Lord, I Lift My Soul to You

Handel, arr. Hopson

*Doxology

48

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.

*Prayer of Dedication

(Because of the special nature of today's service, we are not hosting Children's Church today, but we do still have Nursery Care for those Kindergarten and younger.)

THE WORD OF GOD

Dramatic Reading

The Vitality Team

Old Testament Reading

Nehemiah 9:5-37 (The VOICE)

O.T. Page #438

Response:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON & TESTIMONIES

We Choose Grace

Pastor Jason,
Larry Abreu, & Liz Easton

*OUR RESPONSE

Amazing Grace

Hymn #341

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,

for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Grace, Love, and Fellowship

Solo, Pastor Jason

*POSTLUDE

Take Time to Be Holy

arr. Rodriguez

*Please stand in praise to God, if able

CCLI #982653

Thank you for participating in our worship gathering! We are glad that you are here this morning and pray that this might be a meaningful faith-building experience for you and/or your family. To go deeper in relationship with this church family, we invite join in on the fellowship and light refreshments after services today in the Fireside Room.

Our Relational Covenant of Grace

In adopting this Relational Covenant, we are striving to relate to one another as outlined in this document. This is our effort to live out Jesus' greatest commandment: "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind." and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Mt. 22:37b-39)

Grateful

We are grateful for the blessings of the church and community with which God has graced us. With sincere humility, we acknowledge that we have fallen short of God's desires for our ministry together. With deep thankfulness for God's love, patience and grace we earnestly seek to follow His direction for the renewal of our church's ministry.

Relationships

In every way, by thought, word, and deed, we seek to build God-honoring relationships with each other. We desire to build each other up and not tear each other down. We ask that everyone's perspective and contribution be shared with the church as a joyful, loving expression for God's glory and neighbors' good.

Always Considerate

Christ taught us to put others before ourselves. With this in mind, we will put more time and effort into seeking to truly understand each other's point of view before seeking to have our opinion or agenda understood. We will constantly strive to be considerate of each other's feelings as we think empathetically and communicate with the utmost respect and gentleness.

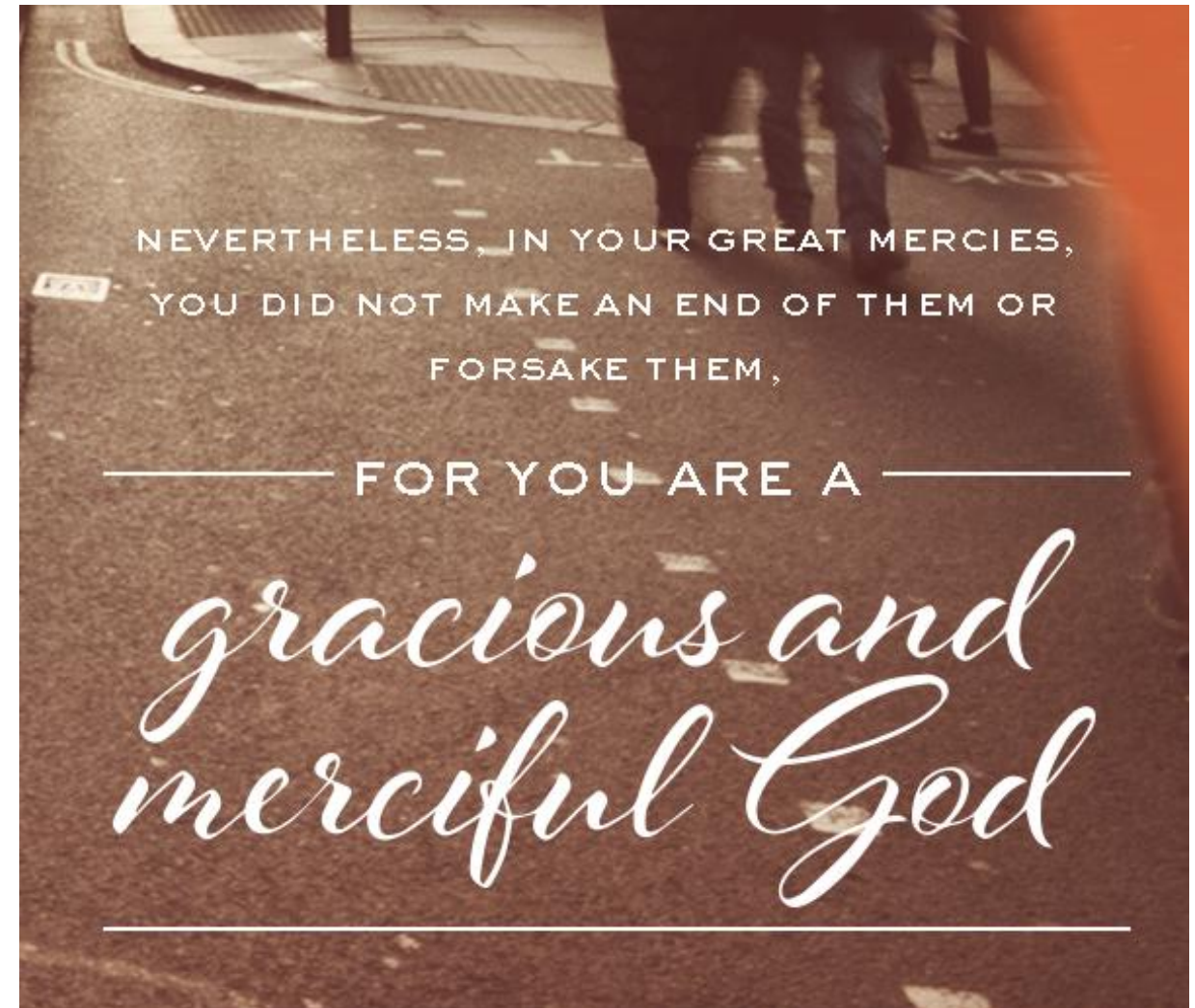
Compassionate Communication

We accept conflict as normal and natural. Whenever any of us has a conflict, disagreement, or criticism of another, we will communicate directly with that person, we will speak for ourselves only, and we will do so in the Christ-honoring and compassionate spirit of this covenant.

Expressing Unity

We recognize that we are in a church built on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ and He is the head of our church. We will seek unity by willingly sacrificing our own desires to those of our Risen Lord in an effort to become the church He desires for us to be.

Approved by the Congregation on October 22, 2017



NEHEMIAH 9:31

Welcome to Covenant Congregational Church
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