

Announcements and Information:

Pastor: Rev. Todd Ruddell
214.799.1647 (Church)
469.271.9631 (Mobile)

Elders: Carl Betsch, Tom Dillard

Deacon: Nick Wehlau

Pastor's email: revruddell@pm.me

Denomination: Reformed Presbyterian. Church, General Assembly: www.rpcga.org

CCRPC Website: <http://www.christcovenantrpc.org>

CCRPC
702 Business Way
Wylie, TX 75098

Pray with fervency and strength for the following:

• Whitefield Seminary, and other seminaries, and those studying for Church Office: That seminaries would train according to the pure doctrines of Scripture. **Pray** for the presbyteries that have men under care, that they might know their fitness not only doctrinally, but as men of honor and integrity. **Pray** that the Lord would raise up and send laborers into His field in this generation and the next.

Rev. Grant Van Leuven (CA) Rev. Jeff Black (VA) Rev. V. Hamilton (TN)
Rev. Paul McDade (TN) Rev. Stephen Welch (WI) Rev. Glau, Lakeland (FL)
Rev. Tim Montague (CO) Rev. Adam Brink (VA) Rev. Reed Best (FL)
Rev. Tom Walters (CO)

• Pray for these churches and pastors for pure preaching, for conscionable hearing of the Word, growth in grace, doctrine, and holiness, that the Gospel would go forth in power, and for a gospel-proclaiming, holy witness locally for each.

Pray as we consider WCF 28.3, for a right use of the sacrament of baptism in the Church—that it would be lawfully performed, and that our churches would not divide one from another based upon mode of administration.

Pray for one another! Pray for your Pastor and your Elders!

Pray as we consider the sermons from last Lord's Day, that we would come to Christ as Chief Cornerstone, and in no other way, that we would not be of those who receive Him in ways that are tantamount to a rejection of Him—that Christ would be our own “all in all,” our Sovereign Lord, our foundation upon which to stand, that we would rest our entire selves upon Him, and nothing less. Pray concerning public worship, that the Lord would grant understanding as to how large a part each of us have to fill as members of Christ, and fellow members one of another, that we would not focus on individuality, but would recognize our distinct roles and places as members of the SAME body, serving Christ, and one another in our regular attendance and hearty participation, worshipping the Triune God.

Diaconal/Mercy/Service/ and Prayer Opportunities:

- Rev. Victor Atallah and the ministry of MERF: Prayer, Monetary gifts.
- Rev. Rockie Simbajon: Prayer, Monetary Gifts for work in the Philippines, and for Heidelberg Seminary's work there training men for the ministry.
- The Libera Project and Rev. Dr. Timothy Worrell

CHRIST COVENANT REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



But ye are come unto mount Sion... And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant (Hebrews 12.22, 24)

**SCRIPTURE ALONE—GRACE ALONE—FAITH ALONE—BY
CHRIST ALONE—TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY.
REFORMED, AND ALWAYS REFORMING**

31 March 2024

Lord's Day Morning Worship: 10:00 A

Afternoon Fellowship Meal (all are welcome) 12.30 P

Lord's Day Afternoon Worship: 2:00 P

Catechism and Memory Class shortly following afternoon worship.

Open Ended fellowship and Lord's Day conversation after church. Fellowship meal after Church services the 1st Lord's Day of each month at the Church building.

Psalm Sing at the Church, 3rd Lord's Day of each month after services.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00P

Thursday evening Advanced Theological Studies: 6:00P

(currently via online meeting, ask Pastor Ruddell for details)

Monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast (last Sat. of each month) 7:30A

All of these opportunities are open to all to attend. Please feel free to join us.

We are pleased to have you gather with us as we worship the Triune God. If you are visiting with us, please allow us to extend our warmest welcome. If you are a member in good standing of a Confessional, Reformed Church, and desire to commune with us at the Lord's Table, please contact the Pastor prior to the morning worship service.

Christ: Our only Surety and Mediator, Sacrifice and Substitute, Righteousness and Sanctification; the Wisdom of God, the Logos of God, triumphing as the Second Adam where the first Adam fell, God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity

Covenant: The means whereby the Triune God has brought His people into everlasting and gracious communion with Himself, unilaterally, uniting them to Christ, the only Mediator of the Covenant of Grace, bequeathing an eternal inheritance in Him

Reformed: Teaching the Biblical Doctrines of God's Sovereignty, of Divine Monergism in our redemption, of His initiating and sovereign Grace and Salvation as the only hope of man to escape eternal judgment; the sufficiency of the Scriptures, and the “righteousness of God which is by the faith of Jesus Christ” alone, preached and restored to the Church at large during the Protestant Reformation

Presbyterian: Confessing and practicing the Biblical doctrines of Church government, of a broader authority than that of the local congregation, held in a plurality of elders, and those as distinctively taught in the Westminster Standards, 1647.

Church: The Visible people of God, Called out of the world as His people, under Christ's government, discipline, and instruction; administered by Elders, called as saints to serve Him together with their children regardless of age; and testifying to His invisible Church, the whole number of the elect that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ the Head.

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WCF 28.3 (Of Baptism) Dipping of the person into the water is not necessary; but Baptism is rightly administered by pouring, or sprinkling water upon the person.^a a. Heb. 9:10, 19–22; Acts 2:41; 16:33; Mark 7:4.

Thomas Boston: The signifying thing in baptism is water, Acts 8:38, 39. Eph. 5:26. And there is no matter as to the water, whether it be fountain water, or river-water, providing only it be pure clean water, Heb. 10:22. And it is an abominable practice of the Papists to add oil, salt, and spittle, to the water in baptism.

Here I shall shew,

1. What is signified by the water in baptism.
2. What is the resemblance betwixt water and the thing signified by it.

First, What is signified by the water in baptism?

1. The blood of Jesus Christ, Rev. 1:5.

2. The Spirit of Jesus Christ, Tit. 3:5. Isa. 44:3.

Secondly, What is the resemblance betwixt these? There is a sweet resemblance betwixt water, and the blood and Spirit of Jesus Christ; the due consideration whereof shews the excellency of the grace exhibited in baptism.

1. Water is a common thing, to be had freely by all those who take it: it is what the poor as well as the rich have access to. So the blood and Spirit of Christ are free to all who will receive the same offered in the gospel, Isa. 55:1. Christ is not a sealed and closed, but an open fountain, for souls to wash in, Zech. 13:1. Cant. 2:1. And however unclean one be, he is welcome to this water, 1 Cor. 6:9, 10, 11.

2. Water is a cleansing thing, taking out spots, stains, and defilement. The blood of Christ cleanses the defiled conscience, Heb. 9:14. The Spirit of Christ purifies the soul, removing filthy lusts that defile the soul, and so renewing and sanctifying it, Tit. 3:5. And unless we be thus washed, we have no part in Christ.

3. Water is a refreshing thing, when one is thirsty, or scorched with heat. So is the blood of Christ, and the out-pouring of his Spirit, to the thirsty soul, scorched under the flames of wrath, John 6:35.

4. Water is a fructifying virtue. So is Christ's blood and Spirit, making the barren soul fruitful in the fruits of holiness, Isa. 44:3.

4. The soul lies naturally, under the curse, and so can bring forth nothing but the briers and thorns of wickedness. But the blood of Christ sprinkled on the soul, changes the nature of the soul. The soul is naturally dead, and therefore must wither: the Spirit of Christ brings life, and makes the wilderness to blossom as the rose.

5. Water is most necessary, so necessary that we cannot live without it: so the blood and Spirit of Christ are absolutely necessary for our salvation, Heb. 9:23. John 13:8.

6. *Lastly*, Water must be applied ere it can have its effect: so we must partake of Christ's blood and Spirit, ere our souls can be changed thereby, 1 Cor. 1:30.

II. Let us consider the signifying action in baptism. It is washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Here I shall shew,

1. How this washing with water is to be performed.
2. By whom it is to be performed, according to Christ's institution.
3. What is the meaning of the form of words used in baptism?

First, I am to shew how this washing of water is to be performed. The dipping of the person into the water is not necessary: but baptism is rightly administered by pouring or sprinkling water upon the person. The unlawfulness of dipping is not to be pretended, since it is not improbable that it was used by John, Matth. 3:6 and Philip, Acts 8:38; but seems to have been used in the ancient church, and in some places is used to this day. but baptism is rightly administered by pouring or sprinkling water, as we do. (1.) Because the apostles, at least sometimes, seem to have baptised that way; as when three thousand were baptised in one day, Acts 2:41; which can hardly be imagined to be done in so short a space of time by dipping; and when some were baptised in the night, as in the case of the Philippian jailor and his family, Acts 16:33. (2.) Because baptising in scripture is used for washing by infusion or sprinkling, as well as immersion, Mark 7:4. Luke 11:38. p 476 (3.) Because the thing signified by baptism is called *sprinkling*, and is represented thereby sufficiently, Heb. 12:24. 1 Pet. 1:2. It is true, we are said to be buried in baptism, Rom. 6:4; but even the sprinkling of the water, as well as dipping, represents that, according to the ancient way of burying, wherein they were not sunk into the earth, but laid on the ground, and the mould cast over them. Besides that in some cases dipping might endanger the life of the baptised, especially in our cold countries. *Secondly*, I shall show by whom baptism is to be performed, according to Christ's institution. By a minister of the gospel lawfully called thereto. For to them only belongs the administration of baptism, to whom it belongs to preach the word, our Lord Jesus having knit these together in the institution, Matth. 28:19. They are the stewards of the mysteries of God, 1 Cor. 4:1; into which office none can thrust himself with a good conscience, who is not called thereto. And it is the perverse opinion of the absolute necessity of baptism, that makes the Papists and others admit others, even women to baptise in case of necessity.

Thirdly, I shall next show what is the meaning of the form of words used in baptism. It denotes baptism to be administrated by virtue of the authority of God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but especially that one is baptised into the profession, faith, and obedience of the holy Trinity, for the Greek *en* signifies *into the name*, not *names*, to shew the Unity of the Godhead in the Trinity of persons.¹

Thomas Vincent: QUESTION 1: What is the outward sign or element in baptism?

ANSWER: The outward sign or element in baptism is water, and that pure water. The addition of oil, salt and spittle, by the Papists in baptism, is an abomination and profanation of the ordinance. "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized?" (Acts 10:47). "Our bodies washed with pure water" (Heb. 10:22).

QUESTION 2: What is the thing signified by water in baptism?

ANSWER: The thing signified by water in baptism is the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTION 3: What is the outward action in baptism?

ANSWER: The outward action in baptism is washing of the body with water which is all that the word baptism signifies. This may be done by pouring water upon the face to represent Christ's

¹ Thomas Boston, *The Whole Works of Thomas Boston: An Illustration of the Doctrines of the Christian Religion, Part 2*, ed. Samuel McMillan, vol. 2 (Aberdeen: George and Robert King, 1848), 474–476.

blood poured out for us, or by sprinkling water upon the face to represent the p 247 blood of sprinkling, with which the heart is sprinkled. “Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water” (Heb. 10:22).

QUESTION 4: Is it not necessary to dip or plunge the body in the water in baptism, when the Scripture tells us of several that went down into the water when they were baptized, and we are to be buried with Christ in baptism and therefore plunged and covered with water in baptism, as Christ was covered with earth in the grave even?

ANSWER: It is not necessary that the body should be dipped or plunged all over in baptism: **1.** When we read of some that went down into the water when they were baptized we do not read that they were dipped or plunged over head and ears. They might be baptized by pouring or sprinkling the water upon their faces. In some places where the Scripture tells us persons were baptized, travelers tell us they were but ankle deep, in which it was impossible they could be plunged all over; and where it is said there was much water the original words do not signify deep waters, but many streams, which are known to be shallow, and not fit to plunge the body into. **2.** Though some went down into the water when they were baptized, yet the Scripture does not say that all did so. Most probably water was brought into the house, when the jailer and all his household were baptized in the night and not that he suffered the apostles (then prisoners) to go forth, that he with them should go out with all his household, and leave all the other prisoners alone, to seek some river to be baptized and plunged into. **3.** The burying with Christ by baptism, signifies the burying of will in the soul by the baptism of the Spirit; and not the burying of the body, and covering it all over in the baptism of water. There is a baptizing or washing, as was said, in pouring or sprinkling water on the body. As our Saviour told Peter, when he would have been washed all over by him, that the washing of the feet was sufficient so the washing of the face is sufficient, especially for infants, who, in our colder climates, cannot be plunged in a river without manifest hazard of their lives, which none can prove by Scripture to be necessary. p 248
QUESTION 5: What doth the washing of body with represent and signify?

ANSWER: The washing of the body with water in baptism represents and signifies the washing of the soul from sin by the blood of Jesus Christ. “That loved us. and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Rev. 1:5).

QUESTION 6: In whose name are persons to be baptized?

ANSWER: Persons are to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. “Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 28:19).²

Prayer Requests-03/25/2024

If you have a matter for prayer during the second service, please make that request known to the Pastor.

- Pray for Kelley Rice, Rilla Serven, and Kim Fox, expecting.
- Pray for Greg Schempp’s mother’s health; also pray for Kristi’s mother, LaRae Donahoo recovering from her infection and kidney difficulties, for Joanna’s sister Karen Arco, who has been diagnosed with MS.
- Pray for the Seminary Students and auditors, for good time to devote to study, for diligence in the work.
- Pray for Larry Campo and his vision, much improved, also as he recovers from treatment on his legs, and anticipates more treatment in a few weeks.
- Pray for Rev. Dr. Stodghill as he and Tonya are being treated for Neuropathy and related pain, and as Dr. Stodghill recovers from surgery.
- Pray for Kristi Wehlau, for treatment concerning her ankle, preparing for surgery on March 29th.
- Pray for the Shipp family, planning to travel to N. Carolina to visit family and friends next month.
- Session Meeting scheduled for April 2nd. Please pray for your Elders and Deacons as they meet. All are invited.
- Pray for the children of the Church, and their parents, for their homeschooling and other forms of academics, for diligence, excellence, and joy. Pray also for families with little ones, for wisdom and strength in daily care and upbringing, in discipline, order, and praise to those who do well.
- Pray for the Craft and Goldschmeding families concerning the care of their daughters Sadie and Stella.
- Pray for Joshua Mamza, for his safety in Rwanda.
- Pray for rain in our area. Give thanks for rain received.
- Pray for our nation: for our leaders, local and beyond, for godliness, wholesome law, and repeal of sinful law. Pray concerning military action in the middle east and Ukraine our involvement in it. Pray for Gov. Abbott and other state officials, and the securing of the southern border, for the resources and political will to protect our state.
- Per Sheriff Skinner: Pray for CCSD as they work drug trafficking and Cartel interdiction in our county.

Restroom remodel has begun. Take necessary steps and/or precautions with children and trips outside.

Presbytery scheduled for April 17th-18th, Sheboygan WI.

Men’s Breakfast Saturday, March 30th, 7:30AM

² Thomas Vincent, *A Family Instructional Guide*, electronic edition based on the first Banner of Truth ed., 1980. (Simpsonville, SC: Christian Classics Foundation, 1996), 246–248.