

## Announcements and Information:

Pastor: Rev. Todd Ruddell  
972.853.0914 (Home)  
469.271.9631 (Mobile)

Elders: Carl Betsch, Tom Dillard

Pastor's email: [pastor@christcovenantreformedpc.org](mailto:pastor@christcovenantreformedpc.org)

Denomination: Reformed Pres. Church, General Assembly: [www.rpcga.org](http://www.rpcga.org)

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

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, standing in the stream of our Reformation and Biblical heritage. **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 as well. **Pray** that the Lord of the harvest would raise up and send laborers into His field in the next generation. **Pray** also for officers and members in our own, and like-minded denominations, for strength of conviction in Biblical faith and practice.

**Pray** as we ponder LC 19, that we would be well removed from the superstition that surrounds the ministry of angels, and not only there, but in all areas of our lives and worldview that we would remain free from superstition, fable, etc. and would cleave to the Word of God in our thoughts and regarding the content of what we believe. As we think on the Lord's providence toward angels, **pray** for humility, and that our interest and care concerning our eternal salvation would mirror theirs, who desire to look into these things (1 Peter 1.12). **Pray** also for thankfulness and perseverance regarding that great salvation, as we recalls that there are some angels who have irrecoverably fallen in perdition.

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

**Pray** for understanding and use of what we have studied recently together regarding what it means to be simple, that we would be wise in the things of the Lord, and simple to that which is evil. **Pray** that we would not cleave to the wisdom of this world, which is passing away, but to the Word of God, and the wisdom which He holds out to us in that Word, that we might profit, and increase in wisdom, knowledge, and in the fear of the Lord.

### Diaconal/Mercy/Service/ and Prayer Opportunities:

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

# 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**

### **18 February 2018**

Lord's Day Morning Worship:

10:00 A

Afternoon Fellowship Meal (all are welcome)

12.30 P

Lord's Day Early Evening Worship:

2:00 P

Catechism and Memory Class shortly following evening worship.

Open Ended fellowship and Lord's Day conversation afterward. Pastor and Mrs. Ruddell's home is open after services each Lord's Day to all for refreshments, Sabbath Day conversation, and good fellowship. NT Greek class is held every Wednesday evening at the Church. All interested folks are welcome, class begins at 7:30. We also host a monthly men's prayer breakfast at the Church for our men and boys. Speak to one of our men for details. We also gather to sing the Psalms the first Lord's Day of every month at the Church, 4:45 or so.

We are pleased to have you join 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.

### **Our Name:**

**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

**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.



**LC Question 19: What is God's Providence Towards the Angels? Answer:** God by his providence permitted some of the angels, willfully and irrecoverably, to fall into sin and damnation,<sup>a</sup> limiting and ordering that, and all their sins, to his own glory;<sup>b</sup> and established the rest in holiness and happiness;<sup>c</sup> employing them all,<sup>d</sup> at his pleasure, in the administrations of his power, mercy, and justice.<sup>e</sup> **a.** Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:4; Heb. 2:16; John 8:44. **b.** Job 1:12; Matt. 8:31. **c.** 1 Tim. 5:21; Mark 8:38; Heb. 12:22. **d.** Ps. 104:4. **e.** 2 Ki. 19:35; Heb. 1:14.

**Thomas Ridgley:** It is farther observed, that God employs all the angels at his pleasure in the administration of his power, mercy, and justice. This leads us to speak concerning the ministry of angels, which is either extraordinary or ordinary. Most of the instances which we have of it, especially in the Old Testament, were performed in an extraordinary manner; and sometimes it was attended with their appearance in a human form, assumed for the purpose of their ministering. We may briefly consider the fact of the ministry of angels, and then inquire whether, though their ministry be not visible or attended with such circumstances as it formerly was, there are not some other instances in which the providence of God now employs them for the good of his church.—As to the former, we read that God has sometimes sent them to supply his servants with necessary food when destitute of it, and when there was no ordinary way for their procuring it. Thus an angel brought a cake and a cruse of water to Elijah when he was on his journey to Horeb, the mount of God.<sup>z</sup> And when Abraham's servant was travelling to Mesopotamia, to bring a wife thence for Isaac Abraham tells him that 'God would send his angel before him,'<sup>a</sup> and so make his journey prosperous.—Again, the angels have sometimes been sent to defend God's people, and to assure them of safety when exposed to danger. Thus, when Jacob was returning from Laban to his own country, and was apprehensive of the danger to which he was exposed from the resentment of his brother Esau, it is said that 'the angels of God met him; and, when he saw them, he said, This is God's host.'<sup>b</sup> And when the prophet Elijah was encompassed about by the Syrian army, sent on purpose to take him, he was defended by an host of angels appearing under the emblem of horses and chariots of fire round about him.<sup>c</sup> Others, when persecuted, and, as it were, delivered over to death, have been preserved, as Daniel was when cast into the lions' den, by the ministry of angels.<sup>d</sup> Others have been released by them from their chains, and had their prison doors opened, as Peter and the rest of the apostles.<sup>e</sup>—Sometimes, also, angels have been employed to deliver messages, and to give the prophets an extraordinary intimation of future events, as the angel Gabriel did to Daniel.<sup>f</sup> An angel was sent to Zacharias to foretell the birth of his son, John the Baptist.<sup>g</sup>—Moreover, the angels of God have sometimes been employed to give a check to his enemies, when they have attempted anything against his church. Thus, the angel met Balaam in the way, when he was

riding to seek enchantments against Israel; 'his way being perverse before God.'<sup>h</sup> Another angel was sent, as a minister of God's justice, to bring the pestilence on Israel for David's numbering the people; and he appeared 'with his hand stretched out upon Jerusalem to destroy it,'<sup>i</sup> and afterwards withdrew his hand, when God told him, 'It is enough,' and that 'it repented him of the evil.'—We may add, that the angels shall be employed at last in gathering together the elect from the four winds, that they may appear before Christ's tribunal. These, and many other similar instances, are mentioned in scripture, to set forth the extraordinary ministry of angels.

There are also other instances, in which, though miracles have ceased, the angels are employed to perform some works in the hand of providence for God's people. Accordingly, there are some promises, which seem to be applied to the church in all ages, of blessings which should be conferred by their ministry. Thus it is said, 'He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways: they shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.'<sup>k</sup> This scripture, though it may have a particular reference to their ministry to our Saviour, yet seems to be applicable also to his people. And that promise, 'The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them,'<sup>l</sup> is applicable to the people of God in all ages; as well as that in which it is said, concerning the ministry of angels to infants, that 'in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father, which is in heaven.'<sup>m</sup> Moreover, the ministry of angels to dying saints, who are, according to what our Saviour says in the parable, 'carried,' by them, 'into Abraham's bosom,'<sup>n</sup> is true of all saints. It is expressly said, also, with a peculiar application to the gospel-dispensation, that the angels are 'all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.'<sup>o</sup> Hence, though their ministry, as to many circumstances of it, differs from what it was of old, there being nothing miraculous now attending it as formerly there was, yet it remains an undoubted truth, that they are and have been in all ages made use of, by the providence of God, in the administration of his power, mercy, and justice.

I shall conclude this Head with a few cautions relating to this matter; as this doctrine is not to be laid down without certain restrictions, or limitations.

1. We must take heed, notwithstanding what has been said concerning the ministry of angels, that we do not take

<sup>z</sup> 1 Kings 19:5–8.

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 24:7.

<sup>b</sup> Gen. 32:1, 2.

<sup>c</sup> 2 Kings 6:15–17.

<sup>d</sup> Dan. 6:22.

<sup>e</sup> Acts 12:17. compared with chap. 5:19.

<sup>f</sup> Dan. 8:16.

<sup>g</sup> Luke 1:13.

<sup>h</sup> Numb. 22:32.

<sup>i</sup> 2 Sam. 24:16.

<sup>k</sup> Psal. 91:11, 12.

<sup>l</sup> Psal. 34:7.

<sup>m</sup> Matt. 18:10.

<sup>n</sup> Luke 16:22.

<sup>o</sup> Heb. 1:14.

occasion to set aside the immediate influence or concern of the providence of God for his church. Whatever may be ascribed to angels, as second causes, our principal regard must be to him whose ministers they are. Nor are we to entertain even a remote thought that God has committed to them the government of the world or the church. This the apostle expressly denies, when he says, 'Unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come.'<sup>p</sup>

2. The praise and glory of all their ministry is not to be ascribed to them, but to him who makes use of them; nor are we to pretend, at all times, to determine, that this or that particular dispensation of providence is by the immediate hand of God, and another by the ministry of angels. It is enough for us to say, that, though God does not need their assistance, he sometimes sets forth the sovereignty of his providence, and evinces his right to employ all his creatures at his pleasure, as well as gives an additional instance of his care of his churches, by employing them in extraordinary services for their good; though we cannot, at all times, distinguish between what is done by the immediate hand of God, and things performed by their ministry.

3. Whatever we assert concerning the ministry of angels, we must take heed that we do not regard them as objects of divine worship, or exercise that dependence on, or give that glory to, them which is due to God alone. Nor are we to suppose, that God employs them in those works which are the effects of his supernatural or almighty power; in which he deals with the hearts of his people, in a way more immediately conducive to their conversion and salvation.<sup>1</sup>

### Prayer Requests-02/05/2018

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

- **Pray** for Alison DeTroye, Taylor Williamson, Cassie Aruldas, expecting.
- **Pray** for Steven Schempp, and the continued treatment on his foot, that the Lord would grant healing and long-term strength and use.
- **Pray** for the Larsons, for wisdom toward Gabriel's long term care.
- **Pray** for Mr. Rocky Simbajon, & family, and for the work in the Philippines.
- **Pray** for Mrs. Lyla Ruddell, and Mr. "Sonny" Dillard, for Greg Schempp's father who is on dialysis, and for Nick and Eric's grandmother, for health.
- **Pray** for Rev. and Tonya Stodghill, as they make their plans to move over the next few months.
- **Pray** for Rev. Stephen Welch, and Rev. George Lacy as they search for new ministerial calls.
- **Pray** for Jonathan and Marissa, and Josiah Ruddell and Katie Groth as they plan their wedding and lives together, and prepare themselves for marriage.
- **Pray** for the Wilkinsons and their move to Colorado, for their settling in a finding a good church.
- **Pray** for the students and teacher as we continue our NT Greek studies.
- **Pray** for Dr. Ken Talbot, for his health, and especially his eyesight, as he recovers from his surgery.
- **Pray** for those of our Church and others who are seeking promotions: Tim Allie, and Matthew Allie.
- **Pray** for Nick and Katie Rooney, for wisdom regarding a potential tonsillectomy for Katie.
- **Pray** for Clint Martin and David Ashwander as they look for new work.
- **Pray** for healing for those of our congregation who have been ill.
- **Pray** for Cheryl's father, James Dolberry, as he recovers from food surgery.

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<sup>p</sup> Heb. 2:5.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Ridgley, *A Body of Divinity*, vol. 1 (New York: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1855), 368–369.