

# Announcements!

**Weekly Bible Study** We invite each of you to attend the mid-week Bible Study, held upstairs each Tuesday evening beginning at 6 pm. We encourage you to attend these vital and exciting studies!

**Children's Church** Children's Church is available upstairs on the 2nd-5th Sundays starting at 11:00 am. Ages 2-10 are welcome to attend. Please sign your children in and out. A snack is served. Please pick up your children promptly after services. ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED. If you are interested in serving in Children's Church, please see Sarita Agee.

## Words of Wisdom: The Ant And the Contact Lens...

Brenda was almost halfway to the top of the tremendous granite cliff. She was standing on a ledge where she was taking a breather during this, her first rock climb. As she rested there, the safety rope snapped against her eye and knocked out her contact lens. "Great", she thought. "Here I am on a rock ledge, hundreds of feet from the bottom and hundreds of feet to the top of this cliff, and now my sight is blurry." She looked and looked, hoping that somehow it had landed on the ledge. But it just wasn't there. She felt the panic rising in her, so she began praying. She prayed for calm, and she prayed that she may find her contact lens.



When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but it was not to be found. Although she was calm now that she was at the top, she was saddened because she could not clearly see across the range of mountains. She thought of the bible verse "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth."

She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Later, when they had hiked down the trail to the bottom of the cliff they met another party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?"

Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across a twig on the face of the rock, carrying it!



The story doesn't end there. Brenda's father is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a cartoon of an ant lugging that contact lens with the caption, "Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."

I think it would do all of us some good to say, "God, I don't know why You want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But, if You want me to carry it, I will."

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.



Welcome to the

# Everlasting Covenant Church



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"The Everlasting Covenant Church", Birmingham, AL

"THE\_ECC2015"

## Eric R. Agee, Jr., Pastor

May 20, 2018

### Vision Statement:



Enhancing Our Knowledge of Jesus Christ,  
Empowering All Believers for Ministry, and  
Encouraging Continuous Dedication to the Lord.

# Order of Services

*Fellowship | Refreshments – 9:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.*

*Morning Worship Services – 11:00 a.m.*

*Announcements & Recognition of Visitors*

*Call to Worship: Scripture Reading & Prayer*

*Tithes and Offerings; Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*Praise and Worship Selections*

*Sermon*

*Invitation to Christ*

*Benediction*

**Worship Service...** Taken from <https://www.thoughtco.com/church-worship-service-700490>

If you've never been to a worship service in a Christian church, you are probably feeling a little apprehensive about what you will encounter. This resource will walk you through some of the most common elements you're likely to experience. Keep in mind that every church is different. Customs and practices differ widely, even within the same denomination. This guide will give you a general idea of what to expect.

**How Long Is a Typical Worship Service?** - The typical length of time for a church service is anywhere from one to two hours. Many churches have multiple worship services, including Saturday evening, Sunday morning and Sunday evening services. It's a good idea to call ahead to confirm service times.

**Praise and Worship** - Most worship services begin with a time of praise and singing worship songs. Some churches open with one or two songs, while others participate in an hour of worship. Twenty to thirty minutes is typical for most churches. During this time, a choir arrangement or a particular song from a solo artist or guest singer may be featured. The purpose of praise and worship is to exalt God by focusing on him. Worshipers express love, gratitude, and thankfulness to God for all he has done. When we worship the Lord, we remove our eyes from our own problems. As we recognize the greatness of God, we are lifted up and encouraged in the process.

**Worship Service Greeting** - The greeting is a time when worshipers are invited to meet and greet one another. Some churches have an extended time of greeting when members walk around and chat with one another. More typically, this is a brief time for greeting the people directly around you. Often new visitors are welcomed during the greeting.

**Worship Service Offering** - Most worship services include a time when worshipers can give an offering. The receiving of gifts, tithes, and offerings is another practice that can differ widely from church to church. Some churches pass around an "offering plate" or "offering basket," while others ask you to bring your offering forward to the altar as an act of worship. Still, others make no mention of the offering, allowing members to give their gifts and contributions privately and discreetly. Written information is usually provided to explain where offering boxes are located.

**Communion** - Some churches observe Communion every Sunday, while others only hold Communion at determined times throughout the year. Communion, or the Lord's Table, is most often practiced just before, just after, or during the message. Some denominations will have Communion during praise and worship. Churches that don't follow a structured liturgy will often vary the time for Communion.

**The Message** - A portion of the worship service is dedicated to the pronouncement of the Word of God. Some churches call this the sermon, the preaching, the teaching, or the homily. Some ministers follow very structured outlines without variance, while others feel more comfortable speaking from a free-flowing outline. The purpose of the message is to give instruction in the Word of God with the goal of making it applicable to worshipers in their daily lives. The time frame for the message can vary depending on the church and the speaker, from 15 to 20 minutes on the short side to one hour on the long side.

**Altar Call** - Not all Christian churches observe a formal altar call, but it is common enough to make mention of the practice. This is a time when the speaker gives the members of the congregation an opportunity to respond to the message. For example, if the message focused on being a godly example to your children, the speaker may ask parents to make a commitment to strive toward certain goals. A message about salvation may be followed by an opportunity for people to publicly declare their decision to follow Christ. Sometimes the response can be expressed with a raised hand or a discreet look toward the speaker. Other times the speaker will ask worshipers to come forward to the altar. Often a private, silent prayer is also encouraged. Although a response to a message is not always necessary, it can often help solidify a commitment to change.

**Prayer for Needs** - Many Christian churches like to offer an opportunity for people to receive prayer for their specific needs. Prayer time is typically at the end of a service, or even after the service has concluded.

**Closing of the Worship Service** - Lastly, most church services end with a closing song or prayer.

# Sermon Notes

Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

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