

Rend  
the  
Heavens  
Wide



1st Sunday of Advent | December 3, 2023

Advent Calendar

*He will come like last leaf's fall.*

*One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to bone, and earth  
wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.*

*He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.*

*He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.*

*He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.*

Rowan Williams

cover by Lenae van der Bijl



Children's programming is available during both services on the lower level, see page 14 for details.

Large Print orders of worship are available in the back of the sanctuary.

## Welcome

Silent moment to prepare for worship

Choral: Covenant Women's Ensemble, Kyrie, by Arvo Pärt

Changing of Colors: Purple recalls the royalty of the present and coming King, and the candles recall the Light of the world, Jesus Christ.

## Call to Worship & Procession of Lights

from Romans 13:11-12

Leader: The hour has come. Now it is high time to awaken out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent; the day is at hand.

All: **Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Come, let us worship God.**



1. O come, O come, Em - ma - nu - el, and ran-som cap-tive  
2. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se free thine own from Sa-tan's  
3. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spi-rits by thine  
4. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here un-  
ty - ran- ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save, and  
ad - vent here; and drive a -way the shades of night, and  
heav'n - nly home; make way the path that leads on high, and



til the Son of God ap - pear.  
give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave: Re - joice! Re - joice! Em-  
pierce the clouds and br - ing us light!  
close the path to mi - se - ry.



man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Words: Latin hymn, Music: Thomas Helmore, 1854; plainsong

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

*The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.*

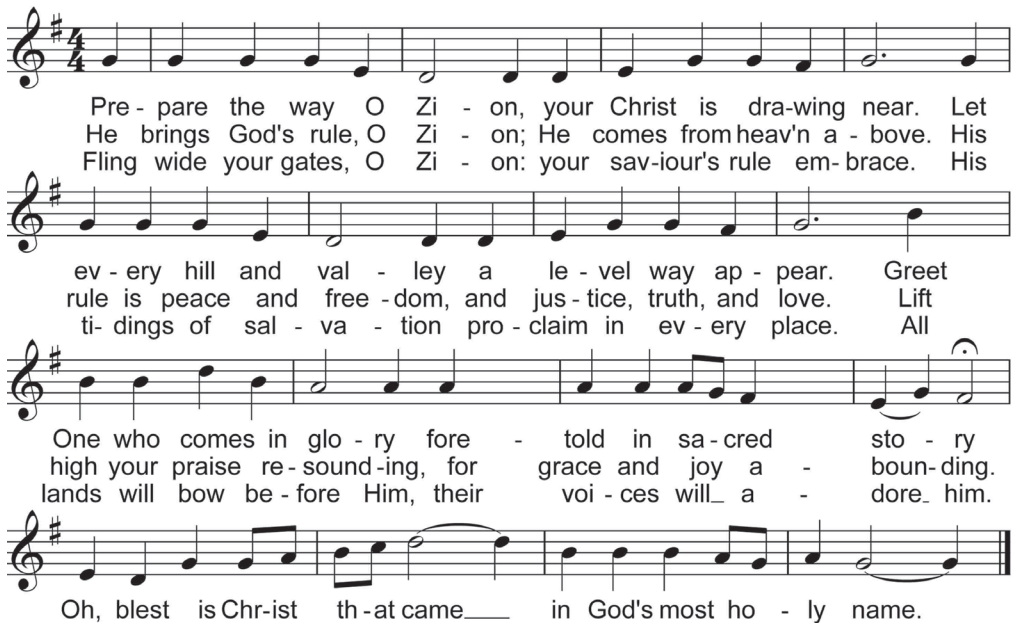
*Andy, Donna and Lottie Bilhorn ©, Jamie Gray and Jon Moss ©*

Leader: The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: We light the first candle as a sign of hope in the  
Christ who came and who will come again.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord.**



Pre - pare the way O Zi - on, your Christ is dra - wing near. Let  
He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; He comes from heav'n a - bove. His  
Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on: your sav - iour's rule em - brace. His  
ev - every hill and val - ley a le - vel way ap - pear. Greet  
rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love. Lift  
ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - every place. All  
One who comes in glo - ry fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry  
high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - boun - ding.  
lands will bow be - fore Him, their voi - ces will a - dore him.  
Oh, blest is Chr - ist th - at came in God's most ho - ly name.

*Prepare the Way, words, Frans Mikael Franzen 1772-1847, music: Bereden vag for Herren, 1697*

## Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: *Faithful God, we thank you that you are the light in the land of our deep darkness.  
We wait for you to come because you already have, and because you promised to return.  
While we wait, grow us in grace by your Spirit.*

**All: Visit us with your presence and prepare us for your coming.**  
*silent moment of meditation and adoration*

**All Sing: Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

## Sacrament of Baptism

*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all in all. - Ephesians 4:4-6*

### Sing to Prepare, Holy Baptism

All:



De - scend, O Spi-rit, purg-ing flame, brand us this day with Je-sus'  
De - scend, O Spi-rit, as a dove, clothe us this day in Je-sus'  
De - scend, O Spi-rit, be our guide, the voice of God, a migh ty  
name! Con-firm our faith, con-sume our doubt; Sign us as  
love. Mark us as chil-dren of the King; Then send us  
tide. Con-vict our sin, com-pel our lives; Spi-rit, keep  
Christ's, with-in, with- out, Sign us as Christ's with-in with- out.  
forth, in Je sus' name, Then send us forth in Je-sus' name.  
us and draw us nigh, Spi -rit, keep us and draw us nigh.

**Francine Anderson Natsis**, daughter of Margret-Ann and Nick, sister of Theo  
*Baptism administered by the Reverend Bill Ferrell*

### Prayer of Congregational Blessing:

**All:** Ever-living God, in your mercy you promised to be not only our God but also the God of our children. We thank you for receiving **Francine** by baptism. Keep her always in your love. Guide her as she grows in faith. Protect her in all the dangers and temptations of life. May she be a faithful disciple of your son Jesus Christ to her life's end. In Christ's name, Amen.

**All Sing:** "Descend, O Spirit purging flame..."

## An Advent Confession of Sin

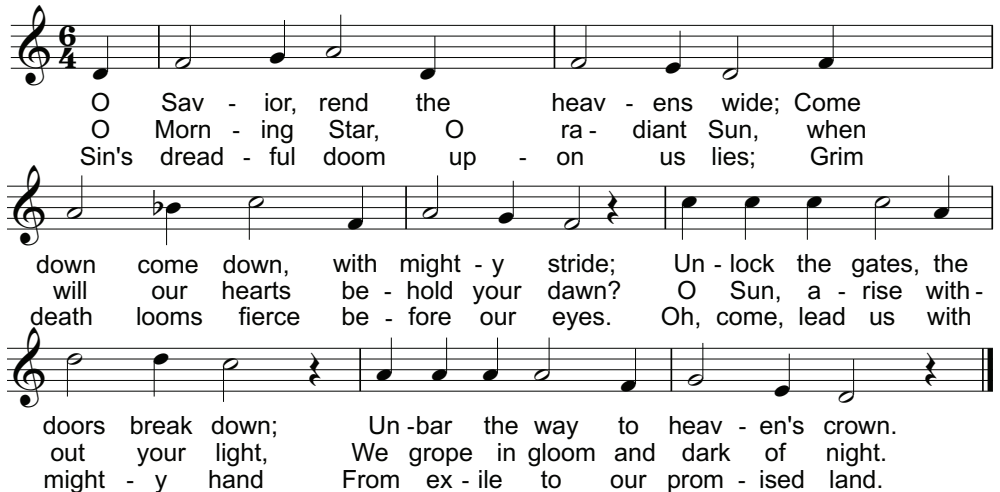
from Isaiah 64

Leader: Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake and the nations tremble at your presence—  
no eye has seen a God besides you,  
who acts for those who wait for him.  
But we have been in our sins for a long time  
and we have all become like one who is unclean  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

**All: Holy Father, as the world crumbles around us and our sins consume us,  
forgive us for we do not believe you're in control  
and we lose hope in your return.  
Help us in our unbelief,  
grant us the courage to wait for you,  
and the grace to know you are here among us.**

*Silent time and confess*

**Sing to Confess**



O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; Come  
O Morn - ing Star, O ra - diant Sun, when  
Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies; Grim  
down come down, with might - y stride; Un - lock the gates, the  
will our hearts be - hold your dawn? O Sun, a - rise with -  
death looms fierce be - fore our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with  
doors break down; Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
out your light, We grope in gloom and dark of night.  
might - y hand From ex - ile to our prom - ised land.

*O Savior, Rend..., Words, Friederich von Spee, 1591, Music, German Spiritual song, 1623, arr. PvdBijl*

## Assurance of Pardon

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*from Isaiah 64 and 1 Peter 2:24-25*

Leader: He was pierced for our transgressions;  
          he was crushed for our iniquities;

**All: He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
          that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.  
          By his wounds we have been healed.**

**Sing to Assure**

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 6/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: "There shall we all our praises bring, Ever - er to you, our Sav - ior King; There shall we laud you and a - dore, For - ev - er and for - ev - er more." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one flat (Bb).

There shall we all our prais - es bring, Ev -  
er to you, our Sav - ior King; There shall we laud you  
and a - dore, For - ev - er and for - ev - er more.

## Lessons from the Word

read by Holly and Steven Lehmann ①, Sarah Marlow ②

Gospel Lesson -

Matthew 3.4-12, p.794

New Testament Lesson -

Romans 12.18-21, p.948

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**



Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan to be.  
This is he whom heav'n-taught sin-gers Sang of old with one - ac - cord,



He is Al - pha and O - meg - ga, He the Source, the End - ing He.  
Whom the Scrip - tures of the pro - phets Pro - mised in their faith - ful word;



Of the things that are, that have \_\_\_\_\_ been,  
Now he shines, the long - ex - pe - - - cted;



and that fut - ure years shall see, e - ver - more and e - ver more...  
Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord, e - ver - more and e - ver more...\_

*Of the Father's Love Begotten, Words: Aurelius Prudentius, 4th Cent. Music: 13th Cent.*

## The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker

Justice, Psalm 94:1-15, p.498

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, God of vengeance,  
O God of vengeance, shine forth!
- <sup>2</sup> Rise up, O judge of the earth;  
repay to the proud what they deserve!
- <sup>3</sup> O LORD, how long shall the wicked,  
how long shall the wicked exult?
- <sup>4</sup> They pour out their arrogant words;  
all the evildoers boast.
- <sup>5</sup> They crush your people, O LORD,  
and afflict your heritage.
- <sup>6</sup> They kill the widow and the sojourner,  
and murder the fatherless;



<sup>7</sup> and they say, "The LORD does not see;  
the God of Jacob does not perceive."

<sup>8</sup> Understand, O dullest of the people!  
Fools, when will you be wise?

<sup>9</sup> He who planted the ear, does he not hear?  
He who formed the eye, does he not see?

<sup>10</sup> He who disciplines the nations, does he not rebuke?  
He who teaches man knowledge—

<sup>11</sup> the LORD—knows the thoughts of man,  
that they are but a breath.

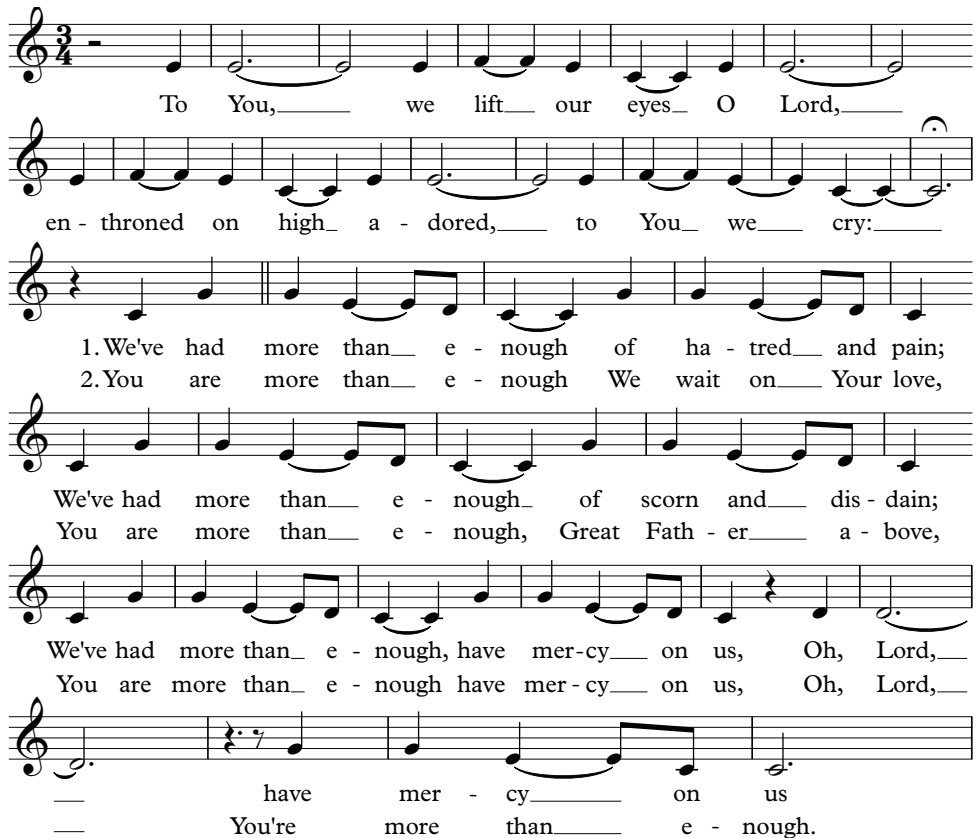
<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O LORD,  
and whom you teach out of your law,

<sup>13</sup> to give him rest from days of trouble,  
until a pit is dug for the wicked.

<sup>14</sup> For the LORD will not forsake his people;  
he will not abandon his heritage;

<sup>15</sup> for justice will return to the righteous,  
and all the upright in heart will follow it.

All:



To You, we lift our eyes O Lord,  
en - throned on high a - dored, to You we cry:  
1. We've had more than e - nough of ha - tred and pain;  
2. You are more than e - nough We wait on Your love,  
We've had more than e - nough of scorn and dis - dain;  
You are more than e - nough, Great Fath - er a - bove,  
We've had more than e - nough, have mer - cy on us, Oh, Lord,  
You are more than e - nough have mer - cy on us, Oh, Lord,  
— have mer - cy on us  
— You're more than e - nough.

## Sacrament of Communion

2 Corinthians 13:11-14: Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

Leader: The Lord be with you  
**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts  
**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*Greet each other in the name of Christ*

*Giving back to God a portion of what he's already given us is an important part of the Christian life. The bread and wine we use in communion are a picture of the gifts that God has given us, offered back to him as an act of worship. You can offer your resources back to God in support of the work of the church by placing your offering in the boxes in the back on the way out. You can also give online at [covenantchicago.org/give](http://covenantchicago.org/give), use the QR code on page 15, or text a donation amount to 84321.*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures  
here below. Praise Him above the heavenly host, praise  
Fa-ther, Son, and Holy Ghost. Glory to God on earth be  
giv'n! Now and for ever more, A-men!

Doxology, Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, Music, Sussex Carol by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1900

## The Great Thanksgiving, from the Anglican Church, 1998

Leader: As we approach your table, grant us the peace with each other that we find in you so that we can come to this feast united in love. Accept now our offerings of bread, wine and gifts to you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to the work of your kingdom.

**All: It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.**

Leader: He is the one foretold by all the prophets,  
whom the Virgin bore with love beyond all telling.  
John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came.

**All: In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,  
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.**

Leader: And so, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of praise.

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

5. O come, De-sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one  
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill  
all the world with hea - ven's peace. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## Distribute the Bread & Cup

Please note that we serve both red wine and white grape juice.  
Gluten free bread is available in a separate dish.

### Receiving Communion

Communion (also called The Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the family meal of baptized Christians. We invite all to partake of this sacrament who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and seek strength to live more faithfully for him.

### Silent prayers for reflection

#### *Prayer for those taking communion*

*Lord Jesus, your perfect life, your death and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come. As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the joy and glory of knowing and serving you. I come to this table on the basis of your merit only and not my own. As you have completely and fully offered yourself for me, I now completely and fully offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. Amen.*

#### *Prayer for those searching for truth*

*Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.*

#### *Prayer of belief*

*Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.*

#### *Prayer for those struggling with sin*

*Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Grant also that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.*

## Song for Communion

You are welcome to join in song:

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Veiled in dark - ness this world lay, Wai - ting for the\_ pro - mised day,  
Still the earth in\_ dark - ness lies. Up from death's da - rk vale a - rise  
Light of light, we\_ hum - bly pray, Shine u - pon Thy world to - day;

While a - cross the\_ sha - dowy night streamed a flood of\_ glo - rious light,  
Voi - ces of a\_ world in grief, Prayers of those who seek re - lief:  
Break the gloom of\_ our dark night, Fill our souls with love and light,

Heav' - nly voi - ces chan - ting then, Pe - ace on\_ earth, good will to men.  
Now our dark - ness pierce a - gain Pe - ace on\_ earth, good will to men.  
Send Thy bles - sed Word a - gain Pe - ace on\_ earth, good will to men.

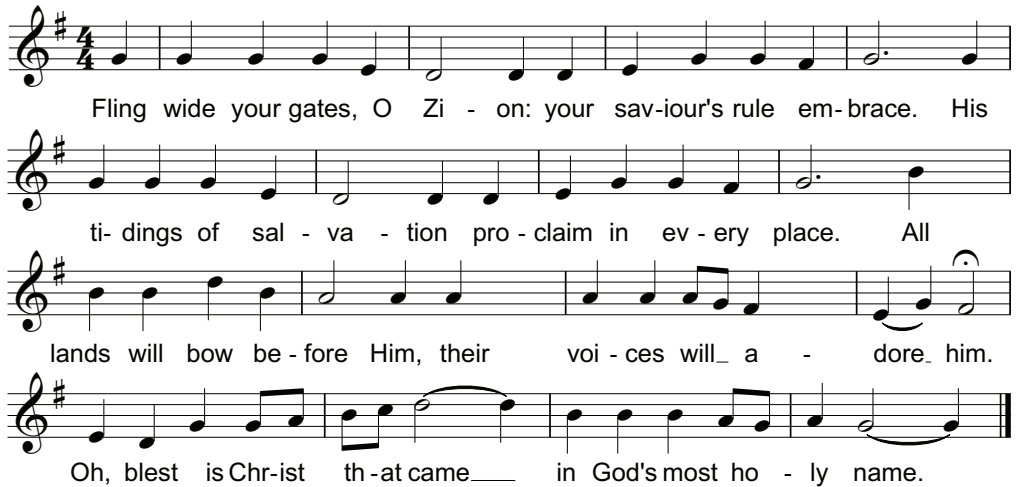
Words: *Veiled in Darkness*, Douglas L. Rights, 1915; Music: Paul van der Bijl, 2009



## Respond to the Table

Leader: Remembering your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we take from your creation this bread and this wine  
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,  
as we await the day of his coming.  
With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you  
to be a living and holy sacrifice  
dedicated to your service.

All: **Great is this mystery of faith:  
Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**



Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on: your sav-iour's rule em-brace. His  
ti- dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place. All  
lands will bow be - fore Him, their voi - ces will a - dore him.  
Oh, blest is Chr-ist th-at came in God's most ho - ly name.

## The Work of the People

*Romans 12:4-6, For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.*

### **in community**

Events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks.

## Go With Joy

All:



1.Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
2.Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, let the  
3.See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
4.So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the  
5.Ho - nor, glo - ry and do - min - ion to the

near," we hear the cry. "Cast a - way the works of  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ its sun, all sloth dis -  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of  
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us with this  
Fa - ther and the Son, with the ev - er - last - ing

dark - ness, all you chil - dren of \_\_\_\_\_ the day!"  
pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ning skies.  
sor - row, one and all, to be \_\_\_\_\_ for - giv'n.  
mer - cy and with words of love \_\_\_\_\_ draw near.  
Spi - rit, while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding, Words, Latin Hymn, 1632; Music, Michael Weisse, c. 1480-1534*

Leader:

## Benediction

*Romans 15:5-7 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

# Welcome to Covenant Presbyterian Church

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## TODAY AT COVENANT

### 1st Service, 9am

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level
- Children's Worship: preK-5th Grade, lower level

### 2nd service, 11:15am

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

### Common Ground, 10:15am

- Coffee and snacks available in the Fellowship Hall
- Nursery: Ages 0-4 (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: PreK-8th Grade (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: High School (Youth Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Waiting (All Saints Room, Lower Level)
- Adult Education: The Once and Future King (Library, Ed Building)

### Advent and Christmas Calendar:

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- December 3:** First Sunday of Advent.
  - December 10:** Second Sunday of Advent.  
Midnight Clear Concert, 6pm, Dessert reception following
  - December 17:** Third Sunday of Advent
  - December 24:** Fourth Sunday of Advent, A Service of Lessons & Carols,  
only one service at 10:15 (nursery provided for children (0-4);  
no Common Ground
  - December 24:** **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 pm**  
(nursery provided for children 0-4)
  - December 31:** Only one service at 10:15 am (nursery provided for children 0-4);  
no Common Ground
- 

### Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Joshua Norton, David and Michele Dillon (9:00); Ian Troll, Karyn Herndon, Matthew Siefert (11:15)

Ushers: David Hofman, Mark Scheerhorn, Matthew Clay (9:00), Phil Koerner, Sam Brewbaker (11:15)

Welcome Table: Beth Brinley (9:00); David Hofman (11:15)

Large Print orders of worship and electronic hearing assistance devices are available in the back of the sanctuary. An usher can assist you with finding and using these items.

## COMMON GROUND CLASSES

**Waiting:** The church waits expectantly for Christ to complete his work in us and our world. We are all waiting for something. What does it look like for us to wait faithfully? In this three-week Advent class taught by women on the Spiritual Formation team, we will explore our own seasons of waiting and how God meets us in them. We will hear personal stories from some of Covenant's own people and look to specific stories in scripture that point us to the tasks, transition and transformation of waiting and how those can lead us to anticipation, trust and hope. Join us in the All Saints Room this week as Linda Gehrs teaches on anticipation.

**The Once and Future King: Prophecy, Incarnation & Apocalypse.** Advent gathers up all of time for God's people. In Advent, we remember the ancient promises of a coming King, we celebrate the mystery of Incarnation, and we anticipate a second Advent of Jesus in glory. Join us for this 3-week class that will trace the theological themes of Advent through time. Join us in the Library as Jason Stanghelle teaches on prophecy.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Small Groups:** Covenant small groups meet throughout the city. Small groups are a great way to get to know others at Covenant, study Scripture, and pray together. If you'd be interested in learning more about small groups, please contact Pastor Dan. (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).



**Midnight Clear:** Join us for a fun evening of music and carol singing on Sunday, December 10 from 6:00 to 7:15 pm in our sanctuary. There will be a dessert reception to follow in the gym of the Education Building. We're looking for volunteers to bring desserts for the reception and help with drinks and desserts during it. If you'd be willing to help, contact office@covenantchicago.org.

**Pickleball at Covenant:** Join others from Covenant for pickleball in the gym on some Saturdays from 9 to 11 am. All are welcome to join; instructors will be available if you're new to the sport. Sign up on our website (covenantchicago.org/pickleball/) for upcoming dates: December 16, 23 and 30. Questions? Contact Ian Cull (iancull74@gmail.com)

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Ushers Needed:** Ushers are the first people to greet people as they come to Covenant. They pass out the orders of worship, help people find the bathrooms and classrooms, and help at the end of service to clean up the sanctuary. Most ushers serve once a month. If you'd like to join our usher team, please contact Margaret-Ann Natsis (margretann.natsis@gmail.com).

**November Mercy Bin:** This month, Covenant is collecting donations for Breakthrough Urban Ministries who is hosting a Christmas store to help families celebrate the joy of the season through gift giving despite financial difficulties. We're also collecting Amazon or grocery gift cards for refugees and asylum-seekers through World Relief. Please consider purchasing items from one of the gift lists on our website (<https://covenantchicago.org/mercy-bin/>) or pick a gift tag off the Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary. Please return labeled gifts to Covenant's Mercy Bin located in the narthex by December 10 for Breakthrough. Gifts can also be sent directly to the organizations via their online wish lists.

**Serve Breakfast at Breakthrough:** On the fourth Saturday of every month, Covenant provides breakfast for the Breakthrough women's shelter. If you are interested in volunteering to help purchase, prepare and serve food to shelter guests, you can reach out to [breakthrough@covenantchicago.org](mailto:breakthrough@covenantchicago.org) for more information or sign up for upcoming dates on our website: <https://covenantchicago.org/events/breakfast-at-breakthrough/>.

**Gospel Justice Center:** Please pray for Covenant's Gospel Justice Center, a legal-aid clinic created in partnership with Together Chicago and Administer Justice, and run entirely by Covenant volunteers. On the second Saturday of every month, we welcome our neighbors with legal questions from the Logan Square, Bucktown, Garfield Park and Humboldt Park neighborhoods. Please pray for us to care well for our guests, and pray for us to grow in our ability to become a more known presence in our neighborhood.

## NEWS AND UPDATES

**Staff Gift:** Each holiday season, the elders and deacons collect a special offering for a staff gift, which is distributed to the pastoral and support staff. If you would like to contribute you can use the envelopes available at the Welcome Table, write "staff gift" in the memo line of a check or give online (<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/staffgift>). Please note: staff gift is not tax deductible.



Staff Gift QR Code

**Youth Group Bake Sale:** Covenant's Youth Group is holding their annual bake sale fundraiser during Common Ground on Sunday, December 10. All money raised will go toward offsetting costs for their upcoming winter retreat at Camp Timber-lee in February. Everyone is invited to "pay what you can" for the various treats and either bring them home or contribute them to the Midnight Clear dessert reception that evening. Questions? Contact Ian Troll ([ian@covenantchicago.org](mailto:ian@covenantchicago.org)).

**Year End Giving:** Please note per IRS regulations, contributions to Covenant must be submitted or postmarked by December 31, 2023 in order to appear on your 2023 Contribution Statement. If you have any questions, contact Gene Pierson ([gpierson@covenantchicago.org](mailto:gpierson@covenantchicago.org)).

**Advent Devotional.** Advent Devotional guides are available on the Welcome Table. You can also find it online at [covenantchicago.org/sundays/advent/](http://covenantchicago.org/sundays/advent/).

**Sermon Devotional Emails:** Twice a week, a team from Covenant sends sermon devotional emails that will help you reflect on and pray through the prior week's sermon text and Scripture lessons. Email [devotional@covenantchicago.org](mailto:devotional@covenantchicago.org) to sign up.

**Meals Ministry:** The Meals Ministry cares for our community by providing occasional meals to individuals and families. If you have recently experienced health problems, have welcomed a new child into your family, or have suffered a loss, please visit [covenantchicago.org/meals-ministry/](http://covenantchicago.org/meals-ministry/) to request a meal. The Meals Ministry also seeks volunteers to cook and deliver meals, and you can sign up to volunteer through the website link. Questions? Contact [meals@covenantchicago.org](mailto:meals@covenantchicago.org).

**Let Us Pray for You.** Covenant's staff meets to pray for the congregation throughout the week. We would be honored to pray for you. You can share prayer requests by writing them on the tear out portion at the back of the order of worship or by emailing Pastor Dan ([dadamson@covenantchicago.org](mailto:dadamson@covenantchicago.org)).

**Sermon Text Next Week: Isaiah 66:7-14**



Giving QR Code



## Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker  
Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org

Dan Adamson  
Associate Pastor, dadamson@covenantchicago.org

## Support Staff

Larissa Bossemeyer  
Director of Ministries: lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org

Gene Pierson  
Director of Finance & Property: gpierson@covenantchicago.org

Ian Troll  
Director of Children and Youth Ministries: ian@covenantchicago.org

Paul van der Bijl  
Director of Worship and Music: pvanderbijl@covenantchicago.org

## Session

Aaron Baker (Moderator), Dan Adamson, David Dillon, Dave Hoover, Brad Lewis, Steve Lehmann, Joshua Norton

*Please direct correspondence for the Session to session@covenantchicago.org.*

## Diaconate

Andrew Dykstra, Jonathan Ellison, Phil Koerner, Joel Miller, Margret-Ann Natsis, Shane Rector, Jon Skinner, Deb Van Der Molen, Matt Ver Steeg, Kylene Young

**Treasurer:** Ben Harvey

*If you're in need or wish to speak with a deacon, you can email us at diaconate@covenantchicago.org.*

## Welcome to Covenant

Please fill out this form, tear it out, and put it in one of the offering boxes at the back of the church.

circle one:

New to Covenant | Regular Attender | Member

Name:

Email:

Address:

Phone:

↑ *This is new or updated information* ↑

### **I am interested in:**

- More information
- Small Groups
- Service Opportunities
- Membership
- Receiving the Email Letter
- Children and Youth Ministry
- Other:

Prayer Requests:

## **Covenant Life**

### **Worship Together:**

*We are made to worship the Triune God, and our worship is always ordered around Jesus Christ and the forgiveness and grace he secured for us by his cross, resurrection and ascension. Gathering around this good news together on Sundays strengthens our appetites, imaginations and abilities to live as followers of Jesus.*

### **Grow and Learn Together:**

*Learning about our faith and growing together in it forms us into human beings who are fully swept up into the work God is doing to reconcile all things to himself in Jesus. Learning is more than simply knowing; it is the internalization of truth that leads to mature thinking and acting.*

### **Serve Together:**

*The natural outcome of receiving and experiencing grace is to be propelled outward into mission and service. All of us have been given gifts to use for the good of our common life and for the good of the broken world around us, and we encourage everyone to regularly use their gifts in service.*



*a church, a city,  
and a world  
continually made new  
by the grace of Christ*

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[covenantchicago.org](http://covenantchicago.org)