

... whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

December 6, 2020

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago

2nd Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Call to Worship

from Isaiah 40

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.
Speak tenderly and cry to her
that her warfare is ended, and her iniquity is pardoned.

All: **Every valley will be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill made low;
and the glory of the LORD shall be revealed.**

Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, tell of peace, thus says our God...
com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load.
speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem... of the peace that waits for them.
Tell her that her sins I co - ver, and her war - fare now is o - ver.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written on a five-line staff. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady rhythm.

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People, Words: Johannes Olearius, 1671; Music Louis Borgeois, 1551

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. The first candle represents the **hope** we have in the Christ who came and who will come again.*

Reader: 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.

Reader: Jesus is the light of the world.
In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Reader: We light the second candle as a sign of the **love** of
Christ who bore our darkness so that we could see His light.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord.



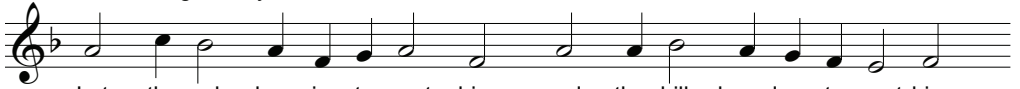
For the he - rald's voice is cry - ing in the de - sert far and near,____
Make you straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er pla - ces plain:____



bid - ding us to make re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.____
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign,____



O that war - ning cry o - bey!____ Now pre - pare for God a way!____
For the glo - ry of the Lord____ now o'er earth is shed a - broad;____



Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that his word is ne - ver bro - ken.

Confession of Sin, from Isaiah 59

Leader: Justice is far from us,
and righteousness does not overtake us;
**All: we hope for light, and behold, darkness,
and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.**

Leader: For our transgressions are multiplied before you,
and our sins testify against us;
**All: for our transgressions are with us,
and we know our iniquities.**

Sing to Confess

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: Cre - a - tor of the stars of night. Thou, grie - ving that the anc - ient curse Thy pe - ople's e - ver - last - ing light. Should doom to death a u - ni - verse, Je - su, Re - dee - mer save us all, Has found the cure so full of grace, and hear us when we call, and hear us when we call: To save our rui - ned race, to save our rui - ned race. Come, Lord Je - sus. Come and he - al us.

Creator of the Stars of Night, Words, latin hymn, 9th century; Music, Paul van der Bijl, Advent 2017

Silent time to pray and confess

Assurance of Pardon *from Isaiah 60 and 1 John 7*

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

All: We walk in the light of the risen Lord and have fellowship with one another, and
the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Amen!

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a soprano clef. The lyrics are: "You came the Bride-groom of the bride, As drew the world to eve-ning-tide; The bread of life, the ho-ly wine, The spot-less Lamb di-vine, the spot-less Lamb di-vine. Come, Lord Je-sus. Come and he-al us." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests. A slur is placed over the final two phrases of the lyrics.

You came the Bride-groom of the bride,
As drew the world to eve-ning-tide;
The bread of life, the ho-ly wine,
The spot-less Lamb di-vine, the spot-less Lamb di-vine.
Come, Lord Je-sus. Come and he-al us.

Lessons from the Word

Old Testament Lesson - Zechariah 9.9-10
New Testament Lesson - Galatians 4.4-7

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker
Her Name Was Mary, Luke 1:26–38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The Great Thanksgiving *from the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia*

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right indeed that we should praise you, God of love, our source and our fulfillment, for you create all things, and in you we live and move and have our being. Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.

All: And even though we turn from you, again and again you call us to yourself, and in every age, promise liberation.

Leader: As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own to rear them in your way of compassionate love. From your own being you sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary our sister.

All: Jesus suffered the pangs of the cross and in rising again became the first-born of the renewed family, the church.

Leader: Now we join hands around your table, and with all creation we proclaim your unending love, as we sing:

**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.**

1. Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2. See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, Comes with
3. Ho - nor, glo - ry and do - min - ion to the

near," we hear the cry. "Cast a - way the works of
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of
Fa - ther and the Son, with the ev - er - last - ing

dark - ness, all you chil - dren of _____ the day!"
sor - row, one and all, to be _____ for - giv'n.
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

Distribute the Bread & Cup

Please note that we serve both red wine and white grape juice.
All wafers are gluten free and available in a single serve cup

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.

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.**



So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us with his
mer - cy and with words of love draw near.

News & Announcements

Announcements in our community

Let Us Pray for You. Covenant's staff meets remotely to pray for the congregation throughout the week. We would be honored to pray for you. Please send your prayer requests to Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org) who will share them with the staff.

2020 Advent Devotional Guide: Copies of this year's devotional guide are available on the Welcome Table at the back of the church. Download and view online at: <https://covenantchicago.org/advent-devotional/>

Staff Gift: Each holiday season, the elders and deacons collect a special offering for a staff gift, which is distributed to 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.

Meals Ministry Volunteers: The Meals Ministry cares for our community by providing occasional meals to individuals and families who have experienced health problems, welcomed a new child, or have suffered a loss. We are currently in need of volunteers to cook and deliver meals or stock our freezer with meals to give away. Please visit our website to sign up: <https://covenantchicago.org/meals-ministry/>.

Do you need help? If the ongoing repercussions of covid-19 present a financial or physical hardship for you, please contact our deacons (diaconate@covenantchicago.org). Your email will go directly to the deacons, and they'll treat it with confidence. If you're able, now is a great time to contribute to the Deacons Fund to meet the needs of others in our congregation.

I'll Be Home For Christmas - Midnight Clear Concert: Join us online for a live streamed Christmas concert on Saturday, December 12 at 7pm. Get some hot chocolate and gather your family for an evening of Christmas carols and music. Covenant musicians will be joined by musicians from Boulevard and Lincoln Square Presbyterian churches.

Christmas Cookie Exchange: Do you love holiday baking? Is the cookie party your favorite part of our annual Midnight Clear concert? If so, join us for a Christmas cookie exchange! This year, Covenant is facilitating a cookie exchange for Covenant attendees as a way to celebrate with each other while staying safe. Sign up to swap a dozen cookies with 3 other people between December 13 and 20. Learn more and sign up at <https://covenantchicago.org/events/christmas-cookie-exchange/>.

Women's Virtual Christmas Social: Thursday, December 17, 7:30-9pm. Festive attire and favorite holiday drinks encouraged. Also if you're willing, be ready to share your favorite Christmas memory/item/tradition - if you have an object or picture you can show us even better! RSVP to women@covenantchicago.org by Dec 16 to receive the Zoom link.

Go With Joy

All:

1. Come, thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - li ver, born a child and yet_ a King,
3. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n to earth_ come down,

from our fears_ and sins re - lease_ us, let us find our rest_ in thee.
born to reign_ in us for - e - ver, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
fix in us_ thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown:

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all_ the earth_ thou art;
By thine own_ e - ter - nal spi - rit rule in all_ our hearts a - lone;
Je - sus, thou_ art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - boun - ded love thou art;

dear_ de - sire_ of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by_ thine all_ suf - fi - cient me - rit, raise us to_ thy glo - rious throne.
vi - sit us_ with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev' - ry trem - bling heart.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, Words: Joseph Hart, 1750, Charles Wesley, vs.3, 1747; Music: Rowland Prichard, 1830, arr. by Brian Ferry, New City Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, OH.

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.

Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker

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Your email inquiry will be promptly answered.

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Paul van der Bijl

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Session

Aaron Baker (Moderator), Dan Adamson, Dave Hoover, Kevin Jones, Brad Lewis, Steve Lehmann, David Salsedo, Ryan Von Drehle. *Please direct correspondence for the Session to session@covenantchicago.org.*

Diaconate

Rich Lane, Andrew Dykstra, Jonathan Ellison, Phil Koerner, Paul Leo, Joel Miller, Shane Rector, Jenny Smith, Deb Van Der Molen, Matt Ver Steeg

Treasurer: Ben Meyer

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

Covenant Life

worship | grow and learn | serve

We encourage everyone to get connected to the life of the church in these three ways:

Worship Together. We believe that humans are worshipping beings, made for communion with the Triune God, and that ordering our common worship around the Gospel on Sunday has a profound, formative effect on every part of our lives. The rhythm of Sunday worship is the rhythm of the whole Christian life and it stands counter to lots of other rhythms that clamor for our attention and allegiance in this world. Ordering ourselves together around it strengthens our appetites, imaginations and abilities to live as followers of Jesus wherever we find ourselves. Come to church on Sunday!

Grow and Learn Together. We believe that learning about our faith and growing together in it are necessary for flourishing in the Christian life. The goal of Christian learning is to form us into human beings who are fully swept up into the work God is doing in his world. Learning is more than simply knowing; it is the internalization of truth that leads to mature thinking and acting.

We'd like for everyone to take two core classes while you're here: the Covenant Life Class, an introduction to Christianity and to our church, and The Story of Scripture, which traces themes through Scripture and applies them to our everyday lives. After those classes, consider joining a more intimate Discipleship Cohort that meets with a mentor. For information about these opportunities, contact Pastor David Salsedo (dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org).

We'd like for everyone to consider joining a small group which meets together regularly to build meaningful relationships and live out the Christian life together. They're one of the most important ways of getting care and being connected at Covenant. To find out more about small groups, or to join the small group that meets at church on Wednesdays at 6.30pm, contact Pastor Dan Adamson (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

Serve Together. We believe the natural outcome of receiving and experiencing grace is to be propelled outward into mission and service. Every one of us has been given gifts to use for the good of our common life and for the good of the broken world around us. We're called to give of ourselves because we're part of the story of God's reconciliation of all things. Every week there are numerous opportunities to serve at Covenant and elsewhere listed in the order of worship. We encourage everyone to regularly use their gifts in service. To learn more about opportunities to serve, contact Pastor Dan Adamson (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).



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