

l wait

with quickened hope for crooked paths to straighten, with tough-soul'd anguish, while blinded keepers of the keys shut out God's own.

(If such a thing were possible.)

l wait, and will not be dismayed.

For tiny shoot of Jesse tree took root in me to love transform, give sight set free.

Sr. Christine Schenk

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

Advent 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

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.

Leader: Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength and say:

All: Behold our God! He comes with might, and his arm rules for him.

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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.

Joshua, Melissa, Laith, Lior and Alyosha Norton ①, Owen and Kaalyn Hazelwood ②

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.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Reader: 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.

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.



Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

- Leader: Faithful God, we thank you that our warfare is over, and our sins are covered. You have lifted our valleys and lowered our mountains and we see your glory in Jesus.
 - All: Jesus, 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, and prepare us for your coming. Amen.

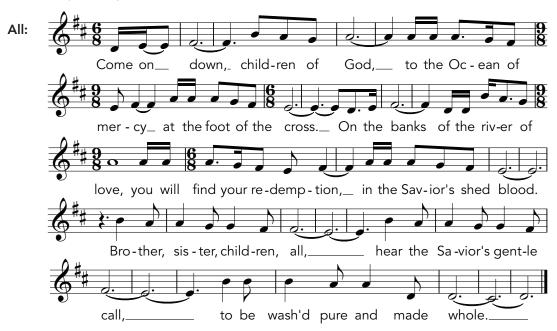
O that war - ning cry o - bey!_____ Now pre-pare for God a way!_____ Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

silent moment of meditation and adoration

2nd service

Sacrament of Baptism

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of you 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, Ocean of Mercy

Jonathan Michael Moss Prayer of Congregational Blessing:

All: Merciful God, you call us by name and promise to each of us your constant love. We thank you for receiving your servant **Jonathan** by baptism. Deepen his understanding of the gospel, strengthen his commitment to follow the way of Christ, and keep him in the faith and communion of your church. Increase his compassion for others, send him into the world in witness to your love, and bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Confession of Sin

from Isaiah 59

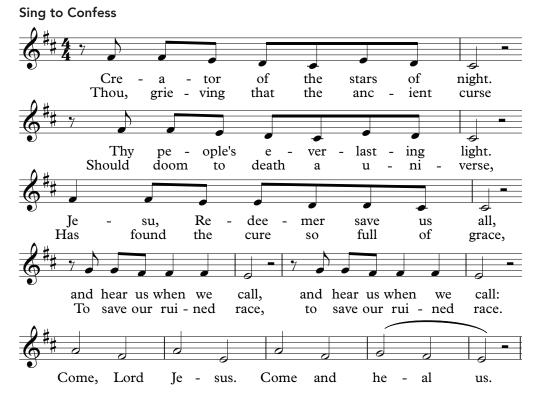
Leader: Justice is far from us,

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.



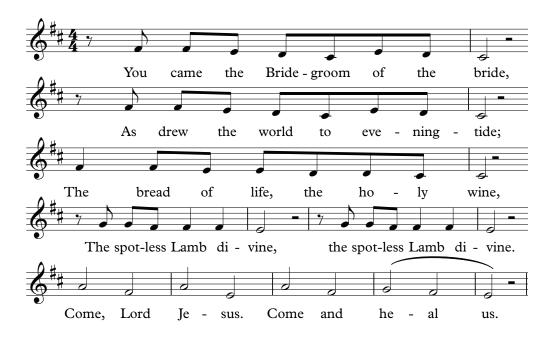
Creator of the Stars of Night, Words, latin hymn, 9th century; Music, Paul van der Bijl, Advent 2017

Silent time to pray and confess

Assurance of Pardon

from Isaiah 60 and 1 John 1:7

- 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!



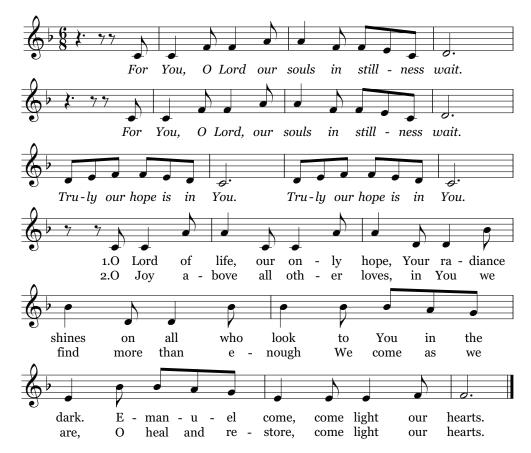
Lessons from the Word

read by Chad and Kelley Oldham ^①, Jared Knelsen ^②

Gospel Lesson - John 14:25-27, p.794 New Testament Lesson - Philippians 4:4-9, p.901

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God



Come Light Our Hearts, words and music by Sandra McCracken, 2016, Covenant Nashville.

The Word

Pastor Dan Adamson Peace, Isaiah 66:7-14, p.625 ⁷ "Before she was in labor she gave birth; before her pain came upon her she delivered a son. ⁸ Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in labor she brought forth her children. ⁹ Shall I bring to the point of birth and not cause to bring forth?" says the LORD; "shall I, who cause to bring forth, shut the womb?" says your God. ¹⁰ "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her; ¹¹ that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance." ¹² For thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees. ¹³ As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass; and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants, and he shall show his indignation against his enemies.

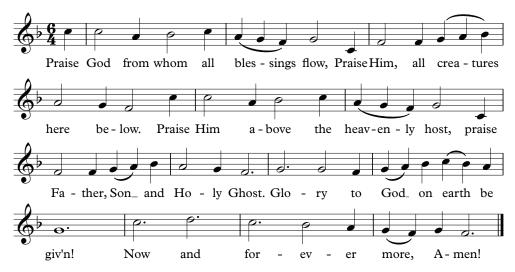
Sacrament of Communion

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, use the QR code on page 15, or text a donation amount to 84321.

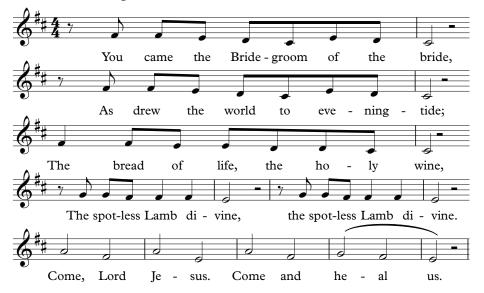


Doxology, Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, Music, Sussex Carol by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1900

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.



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:

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· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	wake!
Call to each wake-ning band, Watch, breth - ren, Heed now the Proph-et's call, Bow, sin - ners	watch! bow!
Hear we the Shep-herd's voice, Pray, child - ren	pray!
Sound now the fin - al chord, Praise, child - ren	1 2
Λ	plaise:
	•
Je - sus Him - self is nigh; Wake, sis - ters w	-
Clear is our Lord's com-mand, Watch, breth - ren, w	atch!
	lwoc
	oray!
Thrice ho - ly is the Lord, Praise, child - ren p	raise!
	0
Sleep is for sons of night; Ye are chil-dren of the	e light,
Be ye as men that wait AI - ways at their Mas-ter	J .,
Make straight the crook - ed road, ev - ery hill and mount made	-
Sin calls for cease - less fear, Weak - nessneeds the Strong O	
	s' songs?
A	e eenger
Yours is the glo - ry bright; Wake, sis - ters	wake!
	, watch!
All flesh shall see the Lord! Bow, sin - ners	
Long as ye strug - gle here, Pray, child - ren	pray!
While heav'n the note pro - longs, Praise, child - ren	praise!

Hark! 'Tis the Watchman's Cry, Words, Anonymous, Music, R.A.Smith, 1920

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.



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



Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, Words: Joseph Hart, 1750; Music: Rowland Prichard, 1830.

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

TODAY AT COVENANT

1st Service, 9am

• Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

2nd service, 11:15am

• Children's Worship: preK-5th Grade, lower level

Common Ground, 10:15am

- Coffee, snacks and the Youth Group bake sale 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)



Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Dave Hoover, Sandra and Jay Zimmerman (9:00); Shane Rector, Tyler and Lamont Black (11:15)

Ushers: Margret-Ann Natsis, Fernando Kim (9:00), Kim Edison (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 Beth Reece teaches on trust and transitions in waiting.

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 Larissa Bossemeyer teaches on the incarnation.

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 tonight 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.

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 Margret-Ann Natsis (margretann.natsis@gmail.com).

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 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.

Staff Gift QR Code

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.

Youth Group Bake Sale: Covenant's Youth Group is holding their annual bake sale fundraiser today in the Fellowship Hall. 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).

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).

Advent Devotional. Advent Devotional guides are available on the Welcome Table. You can also find it online at 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 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/ 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.

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).

Sermon Text Next Week: Zephaniah 3.14-20

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 1

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

2012 W. Dickens Chicago, IL 60647 773.486.9590

covenantchicago.org