

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

December 13, 2020  
Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago  
3rd Sunday of Advent



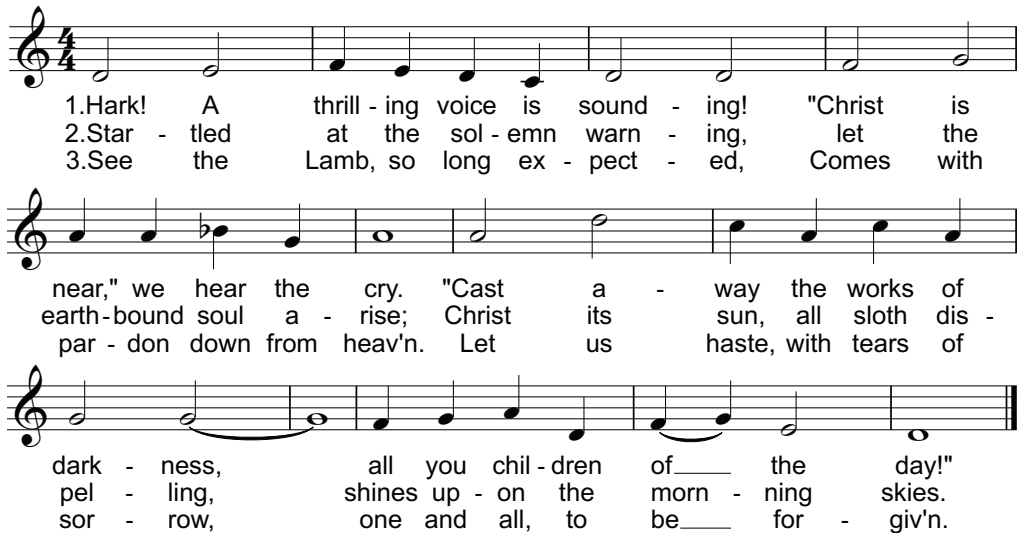
## Welcome

### Call to Worship *from Romans 13:11-12*

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Leader: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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



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  
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  
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.

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

## 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. The second candle is a sign of the **love** of Christ who bore our darkness so that we could see His light.*

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 third candle as a sign of the **joy** that  
Christ gives through His saving grace.

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

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.



## Assurance of Pardon, *from Isaiah 11 and 12*

Leader: "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

**All:** For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Leader: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

**All:** For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

3. Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, Nor shall the fierce de-vour the small; As beasts and cat - tle calm - ly graze, A lit - tle child shall lead them all.

**Chorus**

Then e-ne mies shall learn to love, All crea-tures find their true ac-cord; The hope of peace shall be ful-filled, For all the earth shall know the Lord.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first line of the verse. The second system contains the second and third lines of the verse. The third system contains the chorus, which is marked with a box labeled 'Chorus'. The chorus is written in a slightly different melodic line than the verse. The score ends with a double bar line.

## Lessons from the Word

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Old Testament Lesson -  
New Testament Lesson -

Isaiah 9.6-7  
1 Peter 4.7-8

Reader: The Word of the Lord  
All: **Thanks be to God**

## The Word

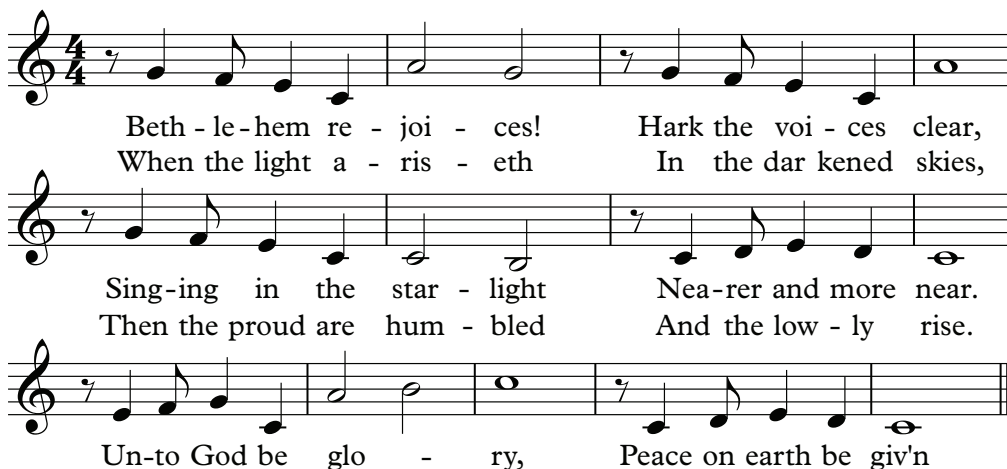
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Pastor Aaron Baker  
Joseph, Matthew 1:18–25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.



Beth - le - hem re - joi - ces!      Hark the voi - ces clear,  
When the light a - ris - eth      In the dar kened skies,  
Sing - ing in the star - light      Nea - rer and more near.  
Then the proud are hum - bled      And the low - ly rise.  
Un - to God be glo - ry,      Peace on earth be giv'n

*Bethlehem Rejoices, Words: St. John of Damascus, 780, 3rd vs., Paul van der Bijl 2018; Music: Paul van der Bijl, Advent 2015*

## 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 fulfilment, 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.



Christ will come with po - wer, On that glor-ious day!



All cre-a-tion's groan - ings Will at last be praise!



Un-to God be glo - ry, Peace on earth be giv'n

## 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.**



5. Ho - nor, glo - ry and do - min - ion to the  
Fa - ther and the Son, with the ev - er - last - ing  
Spi - rit, while e - ter - nal a - ges run!



## News & Announcements

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### 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](mailto:dadamson@covenantchicago.org)) who will share them with the staff.

**Christmas Eve:** Join us for candlelight Christmas Eve services at 5:00 and 7:00 pm. We will live stream the 5:00 pm service. Registration is required for in person worship: <https://covenantchicago.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/656782>

**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:women@covenantchicago.org) by Dec 16 to receive the Zoom link.

## Go With Joy

All:

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O  
2 God of God, and Light of Light be - got - ten, lo He ah -  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye

come ye to Beth - le - hem; Come and be - hold him,  
bors not the Vir - gin's womb; Ve - ry God, be -  
ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove; glo - ry to God, all

### Refrain

born the King of an - gels;  
got - ten not cre - a - ted; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
glo - ry in the high - est;

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

*O Come All Ye Faithful, Words and Music: John F. Wade, circa 1743*

## Benediction

Leader:

*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

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Aaron Baker

Pastor: x31, [abaker@covenantchicago.org](mailto:abaker@covenantchicago.org)

David Salsedo

Associate Pastor: x39, [dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org](mailto:dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org)

Dan Adamson

Associate Pastor: x24, [dadamson@covenantchicago.org](mailto:dadamson@covenantchicago.org)

Jeff Schneider

Church Planting Pastor: [jschneider@covenantchicago.org](mailto:jschneider@covenantchicago.org)

## Support Staff

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Larissa Bossemeyer

Director of Ministries: x40, [lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org](mailto:lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org)

Sherri Bredenberg

Director of Children's Ministries: x38, [sbredenberg@covenantchicago.org](mailto:sbredenberg@covenantchicago.org)

Michele Dillon

Director of Care and Counseling Ministry (CCM): [mdillon@covenantchicago.org](mailto:mdillon@covenantchicago.org)

*Your email inquiry will be promptly answered.*

Gene Pierson

Director of Finance & Property: x35, [gpierson@covenantchicago.org](mailto:gpierson@covenantchicago.org)

Ian Troll

Director of Youth Ministries: [ian@covenantchicago.org](mailto:ian@covenantchicago.org)

Paul van der Bijl

Director of Worship and Music: x33, [pvanderbijl@covenantchicago.org](mailto:pvanderbijl@covenantchicago.org)

## Session

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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](mailto:session@covenantchicago.org).*

## Diaconate

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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](mailto: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 worshiping 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*  
2012 W. Dickens, Chicago, IL 60647 |  
773.486.9590 | [www.covenantchicago.org](http://www.covenantchicago.org)