

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

December 20, 2020

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago

4th Sunday of Advent



Welcome

Call to Worship *from Isaiah 2:2-5*

Leader: It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:

All: **"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."**

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

Come, let us worship God and walk in the light of the LORD.



1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;



Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, Ye have seen His na - tal star:



Come and wor - ship, Come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Angels From the Realms of Glory, Words James Montgomery, 1816, Music: Henry Smart, 1867

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. The third candle is a sign of the **joy** that Christ gives through his saving grace.*

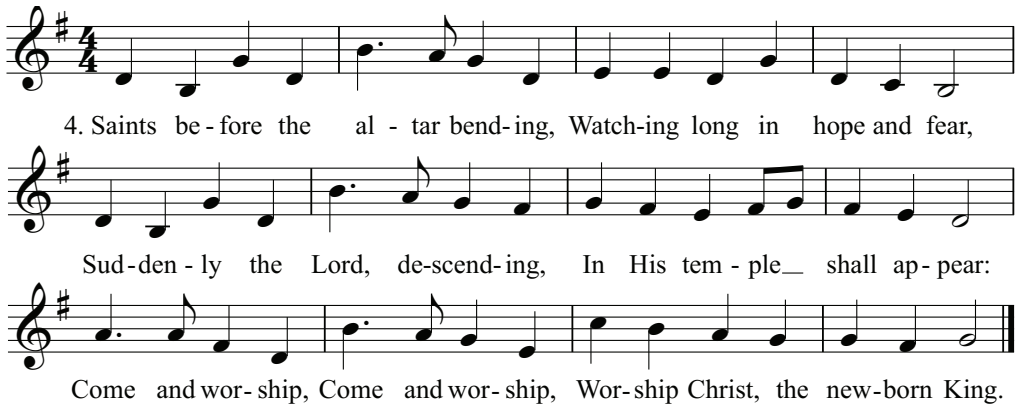
Reader: The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

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 fourth candle as a sign of the **peace** that
Christ our King gives to the world.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord.



4. Saints be-fore the al-tar bend-ing, Watch-ing long in hope and fear,
Sud-den-ly the Lord, de-scend-ing, In His tem-ple shall ap-pear:
Come and wor-ship, Come and wor-ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new-born King.

Advent Confession of Sin, from Psalm 62

Leader: O God, in this time of uncertainty and great peril, even as we await the day of your coming, grant us your peace. Forgive us our clamoring and impatient hearts, filled with fear, anger, envy and unbelief. Grant us your peace. Fill us with your radiant joy and hope:

All: **For you alone our soul waits in silence;
from you comes our salvation.**



For You, O Lord our souls in still - ness wait.



For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.



Tru-ly our hope is in You. Tru-ly our hope is in You.

Come Light Our Hearts, words and music by Sandra McCracken, 2016, St. Mary of Bethany Anglican Parish, Nashville, TN.

Silent time to confess

Advent Assurance of Pardon, from Psalm 62

Leader: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.
He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

All: **On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.**

The musical score is written in a single system with seven staves. The first staff is in 7/8 time and contains two vocal lines. The second staff continues the vocal lines. The third staff continues the vocal lines. The fourth staff is in 6/8 time and contains two vocal lines. The fifth staff continues the vocal lines. The sixth staff continues the vocal lines. The seventh staff continues the vocal lines.

1.O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, Your ra - diance
2.O Joy a - bove all oth - er loves, in You we
shines on all who look to You in the
find more than e - nough We come as we
dark. E - man - u - el come, come light our hearts.
are, O heal and re - store, come light our hearts.
For You, O Lord our souls in still - ness wait.
For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.
Tru-ly our hope is in You. Tru-ly our hope is in You.

Lessons from the Word

Old Testament Lesson -
New Testament Lesson -

Isaiah 60:1-3
Philippians 2:5-11

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

The Word

Pastor Dan Adamson
The Word, John 1:1–18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Let all mor - tal flesh keep_ si - lence, And with fear and
King of kings, yet born of__ Ma - ry, As of old on
trem - bling__ stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly__ mind - ed,
earth He__ stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man__ ves - ture,
For with bless - ing in His__ hand, Christ our God to
In the bod - y and the__ blood, He will give to
earth de - scend - eth, Our full hom - age to de - mand.
all the faith - ful. His own self for heav'n - ly__ food.

The Great Thanksgiving based on John 1

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 in the beginning was the Word,

All: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Leader: He was with God in the beginning.

All: Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Leader: In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

All: The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, that gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

Leader: He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

All: He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Leader: Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

All: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth, and so we join the saints and angels and all the heavens to proclaim:

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.



He will give to all the faith - ful. His own self for heav'n - ly___ food.

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.**

At his feet the six - wing - ed Ser - aph, Cher - u - bim, with
sleep - less_ eye, Veil their fac - es to the_ pres - ence,
as with cease - less voice they_ cry, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Lord most_ high!

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.

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>

Two Services Only on December 27 and January 3. On December 27 and January 3, Covenant will only be offering two services, at 8:30 and 10 am. The 8:30 service will have no congregational singing.

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.

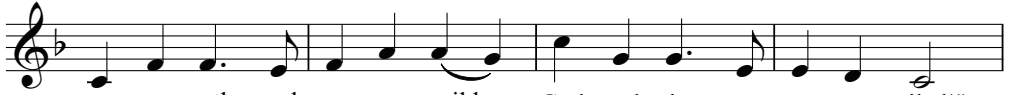
Covenant Life Class: Consider joining us for a condensed Covenant Life Class taught by the pastors via Zoom, in place of our usual in person class. Given the circumstances, we think a Zoom class will allow us the best opportunity to get to know each other and the things we care about most, starting with the gospel. This class is a requirement for those who wish to become members, but it's equally valuable for those who are interested in learning more about the church. We'll be meeting from 7:00pm to 8:15pm on January 26, February 2 and February 9. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Pastor David (dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org).

Year End Giving: Please note per IRS regulations, contributions to Covenant must be submitted or postmarked by December 31, 2020 in order to appear on your 2020 Contribution Statement. If you have any questions, please contact Gene Pierson (gpierson@covenantchicago.org).

Go With Joy



1 Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, — "Glo - ry to the new - born King:
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the e - ver - las - ting Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — join the tri - umph of the skies; —
veiled in flesh the Go - dhead see; — hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty, —
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — born that man no more may die, —



with th' an - ge - lic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, — our Im - ma - nu - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to — give us se - cond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry — to the new - born King."

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840.

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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Ian Troll

Director of Youth Ministries: ian@covenantchicago.org

Paul van der Bijl

Director of Worship and Music: x33, pvanderbijl@covenantchicago.org

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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