

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

December 27, 2020

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Christmastide

Welcome

Call to Worship

from Psalm 96

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!

**All: Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Leader: Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;

All: he will judge the peoples with equity."

Leader: He will judge the world in righteousness,

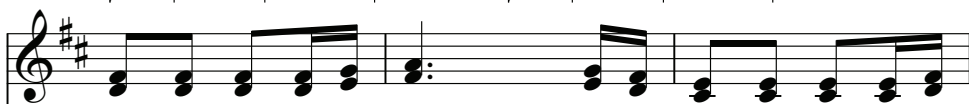
All: and the peoples in his faithfulness.



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re-ceive her King;
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sa-vior reigns; Let men their songs em-ploy;
 3. No more let sins and sor-rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest theground;
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na-tions prove



Let ev' - ry__ heart__ pre - pare__ Him__ room,__ And
 While fields and__ floods,__ rocks, hills,__ and__ plains__ Re -
 He comes to__ make__ His bles - sings flow__ Far
 The glo - ries__ of__ His right - eous - ness,__ And



heav'n and na - ture__ sing, And heav'n and na - ture__
 peat the soun - ding__ joy, Re - peat the soun - ding__
 as the curse is__ found, Far__ as the curse is__
 won - ders of His__ love, And won - ders of His__



sing, And heav'n and heav'n__ and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat__ re - peat__ the soun - ding joy.
 found, Far__ as__ far as__ the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders won - ders of His love.



Christmaside Confession of Sin, *from John 1 and 3*

Leader: In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

All: the light has come into the world, and we loved the darkness rather than the light because our works were evil.

Leader: For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

O Lord of light who made the stars,
In low - li - ness you came on earth
To pay the debt we owed for sin

O Dawn, by whom we see the way,
To res - cue us from Sa - tan's snares;
Your pain - ful cross was made the price;

O Christ, re - deem - er of the world:
Oh, won - drous love that healed our wounds
From bles - sed Ma - ry's womb you came,

Come now and list - en as we pray!
by ta - king on our mor - tal cares.
A vic - tim pure for sa - cri - fice.

Silent time to confess

Christmastide Assurance of Pardon, *from John 1 and 3*

Leader: Yet to all who received him, to those 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.

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.

Leader: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

But now you reign the King of kings,
A - dored in high - est ma - je - sty;
Your ve - ry blood shed on the cross,
raised us to life e - ter - nal - ly!
A - - - - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 7/8 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Lessons from the Word

Gospel Lesson -
New Testament Lesson -

John 1:1-5
Hebrews 1:1-4

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

The Word

Pastor Dave Salsedo
His Word Heals the Brokenhearted, Psalm 147

Praise the LORD!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

The LORD lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre!

He covers the heavens with clouds;
he prepares rain for the earth;
he makes grass grow on the hills.

He gives to the beasts their food,
and to the young ravens that cry.

His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,
but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you.

He makes peace in your borders;
he fills you with the finest of the
wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.

He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes.

He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs;
who can stand before his cold?

He sends out his wind, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow and the
waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and rules to Israel.

He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his rules.

Praise the LORD!



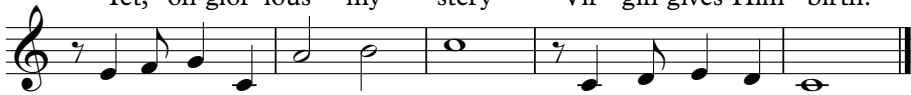
1. Beth - le-hem re - joi - ces!
2. Heav'n can-not con-tain Him,

Hark the voi - ces clear,
Nor the bounds of earth,



Sing-ing in the star - light
Yet, oh glor-ious my - stery

Nea - rer and more near.
Vir - gin gives Him birth.



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, Christmastide 2019

The Great Thanksgiving based on the Belgic Confession (1561), Article 18

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 fulfilled the promise made to the early mothers and fathers by the mouth of the holy prophets.

All: You sent the only and eternal Son of God into the world at the time appointed.

Leader: The Son took the form of a slave and was made in human form,

All: being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: He shared the very flesh and blood of children;

All: born of a woman; the seed of David; the root of Jesse; descended from Judah and Abraham.

Leader: He was made like his brothers and sisters, yet without sin, and so we join the saints and angels and all the heavens to proclaim:

**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.**

For our Christ de - scend - ed from His glis - te - ning throne,
bear - ing sins and sor - rows, to re - deem his own.
Praise and Ha - lle - lu - jahs, To the Lord of heav'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.

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.

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.**



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.

Two Services Only on January 3. On 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. God rest ye mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bles - sed an - gel came
3. "Fear not," then said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;

re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas Day
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same;
this day is born a Sa - vi of a pure vir - gin bright,

to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in Him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."

Refrain

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and

joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Words & Music: Traditional English, circa 1750

Leader: **Benediction**

Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker

Pastor: x31, abaker@covenantchicago.org

David Salsedo

Associate Pastor: x39, dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org

Dan Adamson

Associate Pastor: x24, dadamson@covenantchicago.org

Jeff Schneider

Church Planting Pastor: jschneider@covenantchicago.org

Support Staff

Larissa Bossemeyer

Director of Ministries: x40, lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org

Sherri Bredenberg

Director of Children's Ministries: x38, sbredenberg@covenantchicago.org

Michele Dillon

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

Your email inquiry will be promptly answered.

Gene Pierson

Director of Finance & Property: x35, gpierson@covenantchicago.org

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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