

Let us not mock God with metaphor, Analogy, sidestepping, transcendence, Making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded Credulity of earlier ages: Let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mache, Not a stone in a story, But the vast rock of materiality that in the slow grinding of Time will eclipse for each of us The wide light of day.

# $\sim\! John\ Updike$

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024 Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago

# Welcome to Covenant

Children's programming is available during both services on the lower level, see page 14 for details. Large Print orders of worship and devices to improve hearing are available in the back of the sanctuary.

WELCOME Pastor Dan Adamson

Prepare for worship

Erbarme dich, St. Matthews Passion by J.S. Bach

Rachael Holzhausen

Have mercy, my God, for the sake of my tears Look here, heart and eyes weep bitterly before you. Have mercy, have mercy.

**Change the Color:** The cross was covered in black on Good Friday to reflect mourning and the abandonment of Christ by his followers and the rejection of Christ by the Father. White reflects the hope of the resurrection, as well as the purity and newness that comes from victory over sin and death.

GOD HERS Near Light, by Ólafur Arnalds

arr. by Paul-David Young

GATHERS US TO WORSHIP

# EASTER CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the good news—the grave is empty;

Christ is risen.

All: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the good news—the light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness can never put it out.

Al: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the good news—once we were no people;

now we are God's people.

All: Hallelujah!

Leader: Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace

we now share with each other.

All: Hallelujah!

Therefore, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and

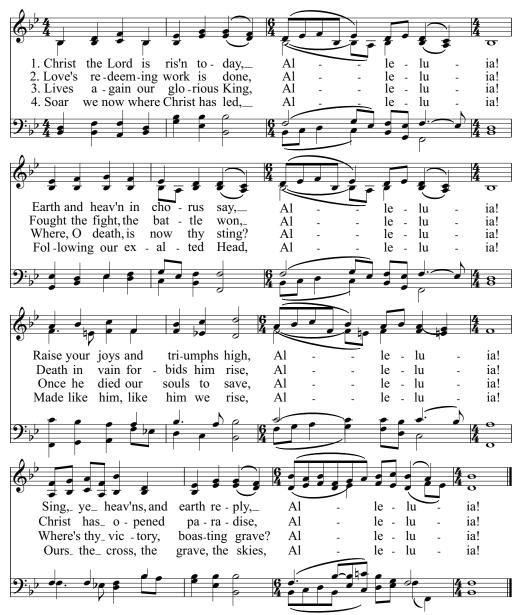
enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, let us draw near with a true heart in

full assurance of

faith. Hebrews

10:19-22

3



Christ the Lord is Risen Today, words: Charles Wesley, 1740; music: Lyra Davidica, 1708

# PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

Leader: Glory to you, O God. We raise our joys and triumphs high for on this day we stand in the warm and bright light of the ressurection of your Son, Jesus Christ.

All: By his dying, he destroyed death, and by his rising, you restore to us everlasting life. By your Spirit, make us glad with your presence.

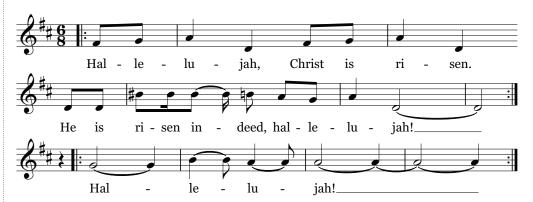
Silent moment of adoration

We respond to

adoring him and by realizing that

he is among us as we gather.

God's call by



Christ is Risen, Paul van der Bijl, Easter 2024

GOD FORGIVES AND CLEANSES US Leader: Prepare your minds for action, and be sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

All: Father, forgive us our undisciplined and distracted hearts and minds.
We so easily give in to those passions
that drive us away from the open arms of your Son.
Have mercy on us and reveal to us by your Spirit the hope we have in Christ.

Silent time of confession

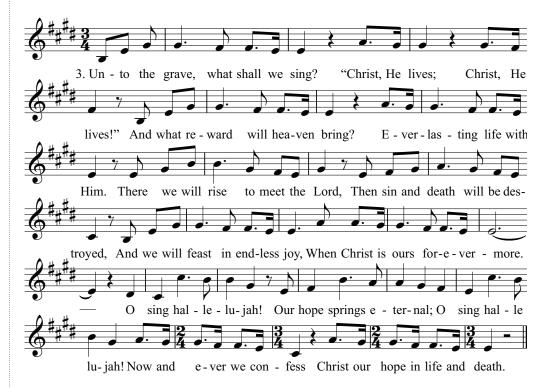




Christ Our Hope in Life and Death, Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Christ Covenant Church, Atlanta, GA, 2020

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

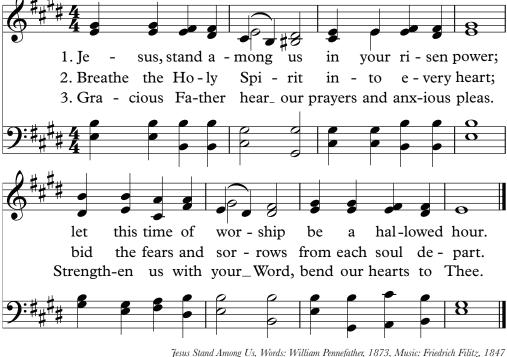


Old Testament Lesson - Isaiah 25.6-9, p.586 New Testament Lesson - Colossians 1.15-20, p.983

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

All: Thanks be to God.



Jesus Stand Among Us, Words: William Pennefather, 1873, Music: Friedrich Filitz, 1847 vs. 3 by Paul van der Bijl, 2024

A great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak. 1 Kings 19:11-13 THE WORD Pastor Aaron Baker

See the Place, Mark 15.42-16.8, p.853

<sup>42</sup> And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, <sup>43</sup> Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>44</sup> Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. <sup>45</sup> And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. <sup>46</sup> And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. <sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

<sup>1</sup> When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup> And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup> And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" <sup>4</sup> And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. <sup>5</sup> And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup> And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

musical inerlude and moment of silent reflection

Hallelujah and Amen

### **COME WITH PEACE**

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord

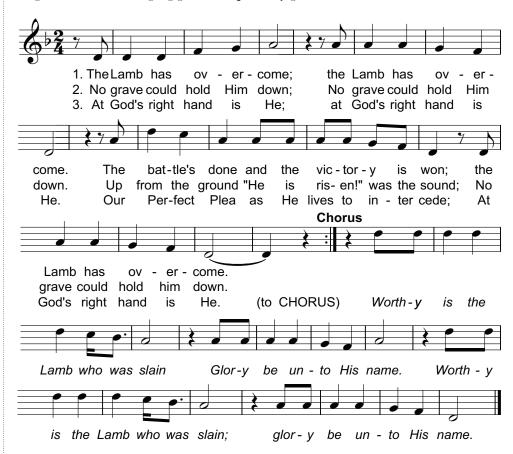
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise

Greet each other in the name of Christ.

# **COME WITH GENEROSITY**

We come to the Table with a generous heart and give back to God a portion of what he's already given us. Offer your resources back to God in support of the work of the church by placing your offering in the box on the back wall. You can also give online at covenantchicago.org/give, use the QR code on page 16, or text a donation amount to 84321.



The Lamb Has Overcome, Words and Music: Luke Morton, 2011, Green Lake Presbyterian Church , Seattle, WA.

God is the host of this family meal. We come to his table unified in peace and offer a communal prayer of deep gratitude for all that He has done through his Son.

#### **COME WITH THANKSGIVING**

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.

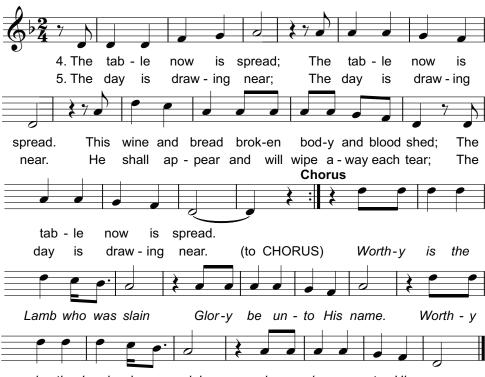
All: On this Day of days, always and forevermore, we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord!

Leader: For he is the very Paschal Lamb offered for us, to take away the sin of the world.

All: By dying he destroyed death, and by rising he restored to us everlasting life.

Leader: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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.



s the Lamb who was slain:

glor-y be un - to His name.

#### COME TO THE TABLE

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.

# **Song for Communion**

You are welcome to join in song: 1 Crown him with ma - ny crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne. 2 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave, 3 Crown him the Lord of love: be hold his hands and side, 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time. Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them\_ drowns all mu - sic but own. the\_ strife for rose vic - to - rious those he came to and in save; vi - si ble a - bove, in rich wounds, vet beau - tv glo - ri - fied; of rol - ling spheres, in - ef - fa - bly cre - a - tor the wake, my of him who died for thee, soul, and sing glo - ries now who died and rose high, his sing on an - gels in the sky ful - ly bear that sight, no can A11 hail, Re - dee - mer, hail! for thou hast died for me; match-less king through all e - ter - ni and hail as thy lives that death may who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and down-ward bends their bur-ning eye but at my - ste - ries bright. ne - ver, ne - ver fail through - out e - ter - ni ty.

# Silent prayers for reflection

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

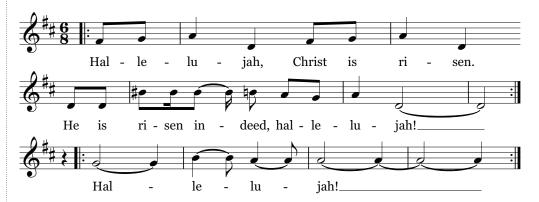
Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord.

#### **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.



IN COMMUNITY

Larissa Bossemeyer

Announcements, events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks

WITH BELIEF

Apostle's Creed

GOD SENDS US I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ
his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **WITH JOY**



Hallelujah and Amen, Words from the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 3rd. cent.; Music: Paul van der Bijl, Easter, 2021

WITH BLESSING

Pastor Aaron Baker

Grace to you and peace from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Revelation 1:5-6



# Flowers this morning were donated by:

Eve and Kevin Bradshaw in memory of our daughter and our son, Caitlin and Aidan; The Wood Family in memory of Robert Wood, Christine Marx, and Sybil Slater; Linda Gehrs in hope of the resurrection and in memory of her beloved and dearly missed parents, Jack and Patricia Gehrs, her brother Eric Gehrs, and Thomas M. Johnston, Jr. (I Thess. 4: 14); Beth Brinley and Ryan Bee in memory of Anne Marie Brinley and Jan Bee; Martha Metcalfe in memory of Fred Metcalfe and to "not losing heart" (2 Cor 4:16) for my sister Liz Metcalfe; Sherri and Phil Bredenberg in memory of Kirk Bredenberg 11/2/2012; The Faasse family in memory of our loved ones; The Spalink Family in memory of Matt VanHoff and Ryan Pennings; Karyn Herndon in memory of her parents, Nancy and Peter Grimm; The Ellison Family in memory of Jonathan's mother and father, Janie and Bill; Paul van der Bijl in memory of his parents, Mijo and Adriaan; Caroline Hoit in memory of her Aunt Sarah Gibson, and her Aunt Phyllis Hatcher; Pamella Anderson in memory of Nathanael Taylor and Jeremiah Taylor; The Foresters in memory of Shirley May Dannull Forester; Allison and Aaron Baker in memory of David LeRoy and Frank Hopp; Joshua and Melissa Norton in memory of Ryan Pennings; Steve and Holly Lehmann, in memory of our grandparents.

# watercolor by Lenae van der Bijl



# WELCOME TO COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### **TODAY AT COVENANT**

### 1st Service, 9:00am

#### 2nd service, 11:15am

Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level
- Children's Worship: preK-5th Grade, lower level

### Common Ground, 10:15am

• Coffee and snacks in the Fellowship Hall

## Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Melissa Norton, Shawn Bandel, Nick Natsis (9:00); Amy and Brad Lewis, Rachel Salsedo (11:15) Ushers: David Hofman, Kim Edison, James Leach (9:00); Rich Van Der Molen (11:15)

Musicians: Paul van der Bijl, guitar vocals; Paul David Young, electric guitar, vocals; Adèle-Marie Buis, oboe; Mike Middleton, bass; Erica Norman, vocals; Brent Stutzman, piano (Boulevard Presbyterian Church); Gunn Kim, violin; Drew Goodwin, viola; Rachael Holzhausen, vocals; Devon Spencer, vocals; Laelia van der Bijl, vocals; Danny Medina, sound technician.

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**

**From Gospel to Apocalypse:** Join us for this 9-week class taught primarily by Olivia Stewart Lester (Associate Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity, Loyola University). Throughout this series, we'll be introduced to the full New Testament canon and how these texts relate to the broader story of Scripture. We'll also spend time each week in specific passages to help us better understand these books of Scripture. Class will begin on April 14.

**In the Company of Jesus:** Throughout the Gospels, Jesus teaches and cares for his disciples in unique ways. What can we learn from the way Jesus cares for those who are closest to him and what can it tell us about how he speaks to us? Join us for this 6-week class beginning April 14. We'll look at stories centered on things like power, suffering, listening well, and fear with an eye towards learning what Jesus means to teach us as we seek to follow him.

**Covenant Life Class:** Join us for our Covenant Life Class taught by the staff. This 6 week class, beginning April 14 is for those who are interested in learning more about the church and the things we care about most, starting with the gospel. This class is a requirement for those who wish to become members. For more information, contact Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

#### **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).

**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. Questions? Contact Ian Cull (iancull74@gmail.com).

**Men's Retreat:** Join others from Covenant on April 26-28 for our annual men's retreat at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, WI. You can find more information and register online at https://covenantchicago.org/events/mens-retreat/. Contact men@covenantchicago.org with questions.

**Congregational Meeting:** Covenant will have our annual congregational meeting on April 7 at 10:30 am in the sanctuary. We'll talk about the budget that begins on April 1, hear some updates about the previous year, and talk about some projects we hope to tackle together in the coming year. Children's Sunday School classes and nurseries will be available, but there will be no adult classes during this time.

### **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Volunteer with Children's Ministry:** Covenant needs additional volunteers to help in our nurseries, children's worship classroom and Sunday school classrooms. We need volunteers during both services (9:00 and 11:15 am) and during Common Ground (10:15). To volunteer, contact Lynda Adamson (ladamson@covenantchicago.org).

**April Mercy Bin:** For the month of April, Covenant is collecting donations to support New Moms, an organization working to change the future for young moms experiencing poverty and homelessness in Chicagoland by offering housing, job training, and family support. Current needs are for Enfamil baby formula (especially NeuroPro and Gentlease NeuroPro), disposable diapers (particularly sizes 4, 5, and 6) and diaper wipes. Donations will be collected in the Mercy Bin in the back of the Narthex throughout the month. Questions? Contact Deb Van Der Molen (dvmolen79@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/.

#### **NEWS AND UPDATES**

**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.

**Parents of Diverse Learners:** If you have a child with a disability taking part in our children's ministry, we would like to try and find ways to meet your child's unique needs. One of our deacons, Kylene Young, has years of experience as a special education teacher and can work with you and our volunteers to tailor a plan. If you're interested in learning more, contact Ian (ian@covenantchicago.org) or Kylene (Kyleneyoung@gmail.com).

**Do you know about the Deacons Fund?** If you are experiencing any kind of personal or financial hardship and would like some help, please contact our deacons (deacons@covenantchicago.org). Your email will go directly to the deacons, and they'll treat it with confidentiality. If you're able, now is a great time to contribute to the Deacons Fund to meet the needs of others in our congregation. You may contribute to the Deacons Fund by writing "Deacons Fund" in the memo of a check or by selecting the Deacons Fund option on Covenant's giving site.

**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).

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, Ioshua 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:
Email:
Address:
Phone:
☐ ↑ This is new or updated information ↑
I am interested in:
☐ More information
☐ Small Groups
☐ Service Opportunities
☐ Membership
☐ Receiving the Email Letter
☐ Children and Youth Ministry
Other:
Prayer Requests:
Trayer 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

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covenantchicago.org

