



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.

~ John Updike

*Children's programming* is available during both services on the lower level, see page 15 for details.

Large Print orders of worship and devices to improve hearing are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Welcome

Psalm 3, by Poor Bishop Hooper; Melissa Norton, Covenant Choir, Erica Norman, PD Young

Choral: I slept in fear, but I woke in safety For You, O Lord, are always watching over me And though ten thousand, though ten thousand stand against me You answered Oh, You answered

**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.

- Choral: Salvation belongs to only You, God Arise, O Lord Arise, O Lord
- All Sing: Salvation belongs to only You, God Arise, O Lord Arise, O Lord

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.
  - All: 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!

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day. Al lu ia! le 2. Love's re-deem-ing work is le lu ia! Al done. \_ Al le ia! 3. Lives a - gain our glo-rious King, lu Earth and heav'n in cho - rus say,\_\_\_ Al le lu ia! Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,\_ Al le lu ia! le Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al lu ia! Raise your joys and tri-umphs high, Al le lu ia! Death in vain for bids him rise, le lu ia! Al save, Al Once he died our souls to le lu ia! Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth re - ply, Al ia! le lu Christ\_ has\_ o - pened pa - ra - dise,\_ Al le lu ia! Where's thy\_vic - tory, boas-ting grave? ia! Al le lu

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

- Leader: Hallelujah, Christ is risen!
- All: He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!
- Leader: Hallelujah, Christ is risen!
  - All: He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!



- Leader: Glory to you, O God for on this day you won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life.
  - All: Come to us in your risen power and make us glad with your presence.

Choral: Hear the Bells Ringing by Anne Herring, Covenant Choir

Hear the bells ringing, their singing that we can be born again. Hear the bells ringing, their singing Christ is risen from the dead. The angels up on the tomb stone said he is risen just as he said. Quickly now go tell his disciples that Jesus Christ is no longer dead. Joy to the world, he is risen, alleluia

Confession of Sin, John 3: 16-17

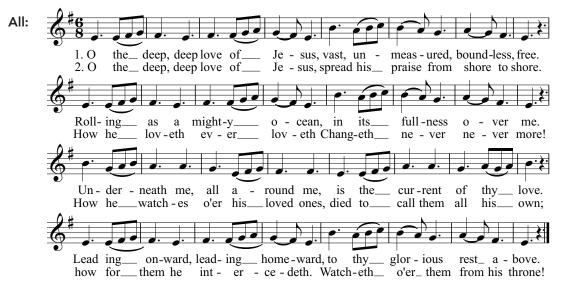
Leader:

For-God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

### Silent time to pray and confess

Prayer of silent confession:

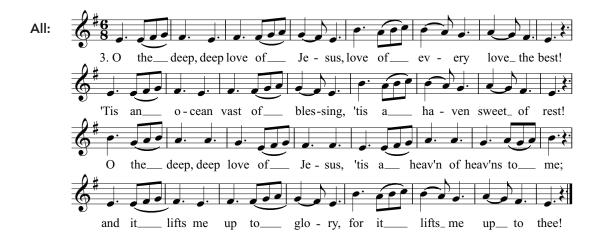
Most merciful God, I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done, and by what I have left undone. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbor as myself. I am truly sorry and I humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on me and forgive me; that I may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.



O the Deep Deep Love of Jesus, Words: Samuel Francis (1834-1925). Music: Thomas Williams, 1890.

Assurance of Pardon, from Romans 8

- Leader: There is now no-condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus and if God is for us, who can be against us?
  - All: Neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Lessons from the Word

read by Olivia Stewart Lester ①, Sharon Durling ②

Old Testament Lesson -New Testament Lesson - Psalm 118.19-24, *p.511* Colossians 3.1-4, *p.984* 

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

All sing: To Him who is able To keep you from falling To Him to Him to Him To Him to Him to Him

> We are standing in His presence With our garments clean and white All glory honor power majesty to Jesus Christ

The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker Don't Be Afraid, Matthew 28:1–10, p.835

<sup>1</sup> Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." <sup>8</sup> So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Notes:

Sacrament of Sommunion

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.

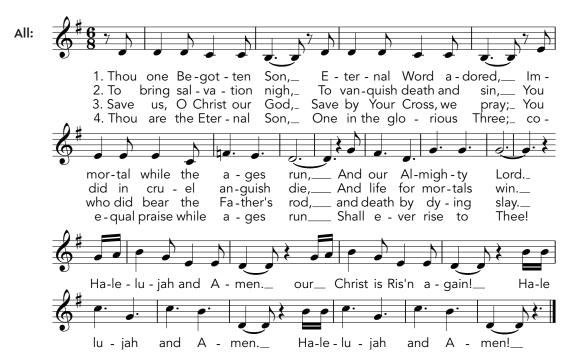
- Leader: May the grace of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, and the redeeming love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with you all.
  - All: And also with you.
- Leader: Lift up your hearts

### 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.

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.

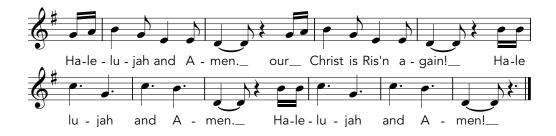


Hallelujah and Amen, Words: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 3rd. cent.; Music: Paul van der Bijl, Easter 2017

The Easter Sunday Great 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.



Distribute the Bread (C

Please note that we serve both red wine and white grape juice

#### **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.

#### **Music for Communion**

You are welcome to join in song:



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

# 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.

All Sing:

Salvation belongs to only You, God Arise, O Lord Arise, O Lord

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.

# in Statement of Faith

Apostle's Creed

All: 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.

Go With 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a-dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love; 2 All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays, 3 Thou art gi - ving and for - gi - ving, e - ver bles-sing, e - ver blest, 4 Mor - tals, join the migh-ty cho - rus which the Mor-ning Star be - gan; hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, open-ing to their sun a - bove. stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un - bro - ken praise. well-spring of the joy of li - ving, o - cean depth of hap - py rest! di-vine is reig-ning o'er us, join-ing love all with - in its span. Melt the clouds of and\_sad - ness, drive the\_dark of doubt a - way; sin Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flo - wery mea-dow, fla-shing sea, Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our\_Bro- ther-all who\_live in love are thine; E - ver sing-ing, march we\_ on - ward, vic - tors\_ in the midst of strife; us with the Gi - ver of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill light of day. chan-ting bird and flo-wing foun-tain, re - joice in thee. call us to teach us how to love each o - ther. lift the iov di-vine. us to joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward of life. in the tri-umph song

Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee, Words: Henry van Dyke, 1907. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven

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.



# Flowers this morning were donated by:

Carol and J. J. Morton in memory of Ron Burgess; Eve and Kevin Bradshaw in memory of our son and daughter, Aidan and Caitlin Bradshaw; Aaron and Allison Baker in memory of Frank Hopp; Beth Brinley and Ryan Bee in memory of Anne Marie Brinley and Jan Bee; Martha Metcalfe in loving memory and with hopeful anticipation of resurrection to my dad, Fred Metcalfe, sister, Liz Metcalfe, student, Janari Ricks, and fellow educator Katherine Koonce, along with her two staff members and three students at The Covenant School in Nashville, TN; Paul van der Bijl, in memory of his parents, Mijo and Adriaan van der Bijl; the Adamson family in memory of David Bonander, father and grandfather; the Lewis family in memory of grandfather, Noah "Jake" Lewis; Ron and Paula Guichard in memory of Shirley Bolffras and Mildred Guichard; Donna Knuth in Loving Memory of members of the Knuth family and the Flesch family, Linda Gehrs in hope of the resurrection and in memory of her beloved and dearly missed parents, Jack and Patricia Gehrs, and Thomas M. Johnston, Jr. (I Thess. 4: 14); Bill and Mary Heine in memory of Zygmunt and Romualda Morawski, William and Marie Heine, Dora Jean Heine Hoffman, and Kohana Heine; Holly and Steve Lehmann in memory of Ruth and Jim Fletcher, Margaret and Vernon Hermes, and Edward and Betty Laatsch; the Forester family in memory of Shirley May Dannull Forester; the Faasses, in memory of our Stapel, Faasse, Erdman and Sweis grandparents; Kara Shrover in memory of Samon Richardson, beloved daughter of Frederick Wilson, lost to gun violence on 4/4/23.

watercolor by Lenae van der Bijl

# Welcome to Covenant Presbyterian Church

### TODAY AT COVENANT

#### 1st Service, 9am

• Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

- 2nd service, 11:15am
- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level
- Children's Worship: preK-5th Grade, lower level

Common Ground, 10:15am

• Coffee and snacks available in the Fellowship Hall

#### Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Joshua Norton, Kara Shroyer, Patrick Fisher (9:00); Larissa Bossemeyer, Hanah Vissepo (11:15)

Ushers: Brent Blankenship (9:00); Rich van der Molen, Ryan von Drehle (11:15) Welcome Table: Phil Koerner (9:00); James Leach (11:15)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

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.

# **Break** hrough

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.

**Men's Retreat:** Join other men from Covenant for our annual retreat on April 28-30. Whether you are brand new to Covenant or a church founder, this will be an opportunity to retreat from the daily grind and start or strengthen relationships. Register and learn more at covenantchicago.org/events/mens-retreat/.

**April 16 Blood Drive:** Join Covenant as we support our local community through a blood drive. Next Sunday, from 10 am to 2 pm, Versiti Blood Center will bring their bus to take blood donations in front of Covenant. If you'd like to donate, please sign up for an appointment slot online: https://covenantchicago.org/events/blooddrive/.

**Feasts, Lost Sheep and a Tiny Mustard Seed:** The Parables of Jesus. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus used parables to teach about the nature of God, faith and the kingdom. How should we read the parables? What can we learn from these short, punchy, and sometimes surprising stories and images? How do they relate to the rest of Jesus' teaching? Join us for this 6-week class on the parables beginning on April 16 at 10:15 in the Library.

Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: Each week in service, we confess our sins together as a congregation. But what exactly is sin, and what has it done to us and to the world as God designed it to be? Join us for this 5-week class that will explore the doctrine of sin using Cornelius Plantinga's book Not the Way It's Supposed to Be. Class will meet in the Conference Room at 10:15 beginning April 16.

The Church in the World. Join us for this two-week class led by Covenant's Mission Committee to learn more about the way that Covenant supports the global church. On April 16, we'll talk about our vision for mission involvement, and talk about the missionaries we support. On April 23, we'll hear from Jamie and Jacki Gildard, missionaries we support in Toulouse, France, to learn more about their work. Join us during Common Ground at 10:15 in the All Saints Room.

April Mercy Bin: For the month of April, Covenant is collecting NEW MCMS 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 to change the future for young moms experiencing poverty HOMES · JOBS · STRONG FAMILIES and homelessness in Chicagoland by offering housing, job

training, and family support. This year, we're collecting a variety of items such as board books, food pantry supplies and baby supplies such as bottles and pacifiers. You can find a full list at covenantchicago.org/ mercy-bin/. 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).

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).

Wednesday Morning Women's Group: Join other women from Covenant on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11 am for a small group. They are currently studying Liturgy of the Ordinary by Tish Harrison Warren. Childcare is available. Contact Emily Willis for more details (emily.m.schroeder@gmail.com).

Pickleball at Covenant: Pickleball will be available in the Covenant gym on some Saturday mornings, from 9-11 am. Bring your own paddle and join other Covenant folks for some co-ed fun and exercise. Instructors will be available if you have never played and there will be a few paddles available to borrow if needed. Sign up at covenantchicago.org/pickleball for upcoming dates. Contact Ian Cull (iancull74@gmail.com) with questions.

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 Ian Troll (ian@covenantchicago.org).



**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.

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 David (dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org).



Sermon Text Next Week: Matthew 6:5-15

Giving QR Code

Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org

David Salsedo Associate Pastor, dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org

Dan Adamson Associate Pastor, dadamson@covenantchicago.org

Support Sta

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, Kevin Jones, Brad Lewis, Steve Lehmann, David Salsedo.

Please direct correspondence for the Session to session@covenantchicago.org.

Diaconate

Andrew Dykstra, Jonathan Ellison, Phil Koerner, Joel Miller, Margret-Ann Natsis, Shane Rector, Deb Van Der Molen, Matt Ver Steeg

#### 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

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covenantchicago.org

