



A Throne Unshaken

April 18 2021
Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago
3rd Sunday of Eastertide



Welcome

Eastertide Call to Worship

from an ancient Easter hymn of praise known as the Exultet, 4th cent.

Leader: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

All: **Rejoice, heavenly powers!**
Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
To the one who is, and who was, and who is to come.

Je - sus Chr-ist is ri-sen to-day Ha- le, Ha- le - lu - jah!
Our tri - um phant ho - ly day, Ha- le, Ha- le - lu - jah!
Who did on - ce up - on the cross, Ha - le, Ha- le - lu - jah
Suf - fer to re - de-em our loss, Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah!

Easter Morn, Words. Charles Wesley, vs.1, David Ivey, vs2-4, 1988, Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708, Sacred Harp tune

Leader: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes forever!

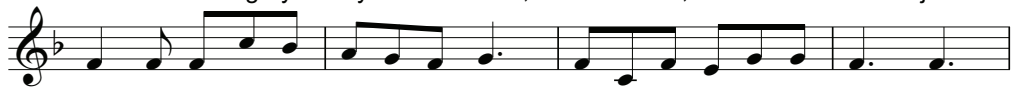
**All: Rejoice, O church! Exult in glory!
The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!**

Leader: Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!

All: Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!



An - gels ro-ll-ed the rock__ a - way, Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah!
Wee - ping sin - ners dry - your tears, Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah!
Peace he bri-ngs you by__ His death, Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah!



Den of de - ath re - sign__ thy prey, Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah!
Je - sus on__ His thro-ne a - p-pears, Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah!
Peace He spe-aks with ev - vry breath, Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah!



See the Sa - vior quit the grave, Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah.
Mer - cy co - mes with bal - my wings, Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah.
Can you sli-ght such heavn'-ly charms? Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah.



Ris'n e - ter - nal - ly__ to save, Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah!
Bids you His__ sal - va - tion sing, Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah!
Flee oh flee__ to Je - sus' arms, Ha - le, Ha - le - lu - jah!

Prayer of Lament *from Psalm 13*

Leader: We plead: Repair the brokenness we share and hear this lament and prayer -

All: How long, O LORD? Will you forget us forever? How long will you hide your face from our suffering brothers and sisters? How long must we wrestle with our thoughts and every day have sorrow in our heart?

Leader: Have mercy on us and those who suffer, O God.

All: See our tears and hear our cries. Lead us all through this valley of death's shadow and renew in us the hope, peace and joy of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and contemplative, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Gra-nt mer - cy and peace, To all those bow'd in grief In our ho - ur of need. Grant mer - cy and pea - ce. Gra-nt mer - cy and peace..."

Grant Mercy and Peace, Paul van der Bijl, 2011

moment of silent prayer

Confession of Sin *Psalm 51:1*

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Silent time to pray and confess

Assurance of Pardon *Psalm 13:5-6*

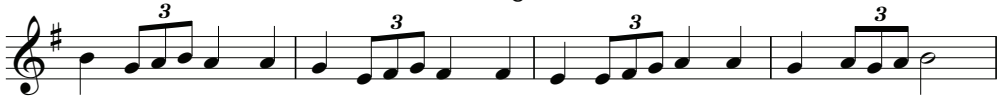
All: I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.



1 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, vast, un - mea - sured, boundless, free!
2 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, spread his praise from shore to shore!
3 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, love of ev - ery love the best!



Rol - ling as a migh - ty o - cean in its full - ness o - ver me!
How he lov - eth, ev - er lov - eth Chang - eth ne - ver ne - ver - more!
'Tis an o - cean vast of bles - sing, 'tis a ha - ven sweet of rest!



Un - der - neath me, all a - round me, is the cur - rent of thy love
How he watch - es o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own;
O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;



lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing home - ward, to thy glo - rious rest a - bove!
how for them he int - er - ce - deth. Watch - eth o'er them from the throne!
and it lifts me up to glo - ry, for it lifts me up to thee!

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

Lessons from the Word

Gospel Lesson -

Matthew 13:31-32

New Testament Lesson -

1 Timothy 6:11-15

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Word

Pastor Dan Adamson

To Hebron, 2 Samuel 2:1–11, 3:1

[1] After this David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron."

[2] So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. [3] And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. [4] And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

When they told David, "It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul," [5] David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, "May you be blessed by the LORD, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him. [6] Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing. [7] Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant, for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

[8] But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim, [9] and he made him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel. [10] Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. [11] And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

[1] There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. And David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.

All:

1. You woke me from my slum-ber Lord and_ called me to your throne._
2. So give to me the gift of faith, I__ trust not in my_ plans._

You took on flesh to walk with me, I do not walk a - lone._
For you have pro-mised good to me, and gi - ven me the_ ram._

The Son has borne the wood for_ me, He__ has passed through the fi - re._

The Lord pro-vides the sac - ri - fice, Him - self, up - on the py-re.

Great Thanksgiving

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.

Leader: It is truly right to give you thanks, truly just to give you glory, Father, most holy, for you are the one God living and true, existing before all ages and abiding for all eternity, dwelling in unapproachable light, bringing joy to many by the glory of your light.

All: We give you praise, Father most holy, for you are great. You formed us in your own image and entrusted the whole world to our care, so that in serving you alone, the Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures.

Leader: And when through disobedience we had lost your friendship, you did not abandon us to the domain of death but time and again, offered us covenants to look forward to salvation.

All: And you so loved the world, Father most holy, that in the fullness of time you sent your only begotten son to be our Savior. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation, to prisoners, freedom, and to the sorrowful of heart, joy.

Leader: To accomplish your plan, he gave himself up to death, and, rising from the dead, he destroyed death and restored life. He sent the Holy Spirit from you, Father, as the first fruits for those who believe, so that, bringing to perfection his work in the world, he might sanctify creation to the full.

All: And so, in your presence are countless hosts of angels, who serve you day and night and, gazing upon the glory of your face, glorify you without ceasing.

Leader: With them we, too, confess your name in exultation, giving voice to every creature under heaven as we acclaim:

**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.**

The Son has borne the wood for me, He has passed through the fire. The Lord provides the sacrifice, Himself, upon the pyre.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The second staff continues the melody, also in 4/4 time, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing.

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.

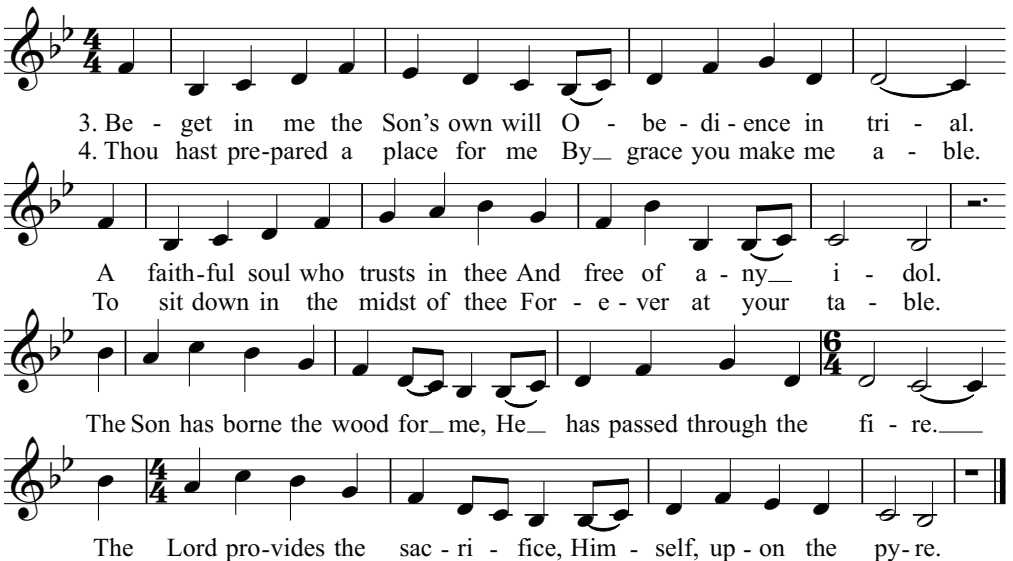
Receiving Communion

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.

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.**



3. Be - get in me the Son's own will O - be - di - ence in tri - al.
4. Thou hast pre - pared a place for me By_ grace you make me a - ble.
A faith - ful soul who trusts in thee And free of a - ny_ i - dol.
To sit down in the midst of thee For - e - ver at your ta - ble.
The Son has borne the wood for_ me, He_ has passed through the fi - re.
The Lord pro - vides the sac - ri - fice, Him - self, up - on the py - re.

The Son has Borne the Wood, by Alexander Wilgus, Cornerstone Anglican, Portage Park, Chicago, 2021

News & Announcements

Announcements in our community

Catechism Class: Covenant offers a weekly catechism class for children in 3rd - 5th grade that explores Scripture, church history, liturgy, sacraments, and the creeds, confessions, and catechisms of our faith, taught by Jenny Smith. Beginning in April, the class will move to a hybrid model of meeting in person outside on Sunday mornings and on Zoom on alternating weeks. In-person meetings will be held outside in the grassy lot, and children will be required to wear masks and sit socially distanced. In case of rain, we will meet in the All Saints' Room downstairs. Advanced registration is required. For additional details or to sign up for in-person or remote catechism class, please email Jenny Smith at jenny.smith@yale.edu.

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, gender-neutral children's clothing (ages 6 and under), children's sensitive skin body wash and shampoo, household supplies (such as laundry detergent pods, dryer sheets, twin sheet sets, and throw blankets), and cleaning supplies (such as dish soap, sponges, paper towels, disinfectant spray, and garbage bags). 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).

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 <https://covenantchicago.org/meals-ministry/> to request a meal. The Meals Ministry needs more volunteers to cook and deliver meals, and you can sign up to volunteer here: <https://covenantchicago.org/volunteer-with-the-meals-ministry/>. Questions? Contact meals@covenantchicago.org.

Sermon Devotional Emails: Twice a week, a team from Covenant sends sermon devotional emails that will help you reflect on and prayer through the prior week's sermon text and Scripture lessons. Email devotional@covenantchicago.org to sign up.

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.

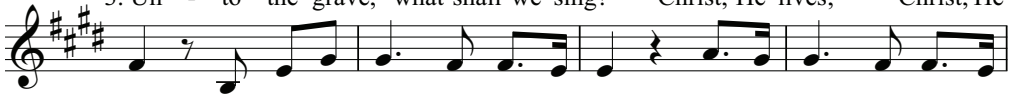
Do you need help? The pandemic has impacted people in many different ways. If you are experiencing any kind of hardship and would like some help, please contact our deacons (diaconate@covenantchicago.org). Your email will go directly to the deacons, and they'll treat it with confidence. If you're able, now is a great time to contribute to the Deacons Fund to meet the needs of others in our congregation.

Church Registration Update: Covenant will open registration for church services and childcare (ages 1-4) a week and a half in advance of a service. Registration is now open for April 25. Sign up here: <https://covenantchicago.churchcenter.com/registrations/events>. Additionally, Covenant is increasing capacity slightly at the 10:00 and 11:30 services. In order to accommodate a growing capacity, we will seat people every other row.

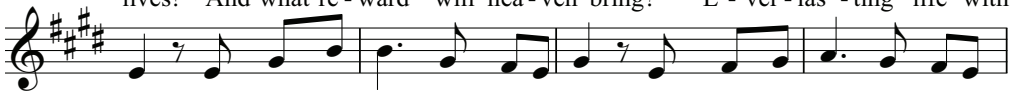
Go With Resurrection Joy



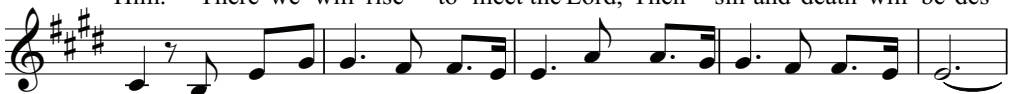
1. What is our hope in life and death? Christ a-lone, Christ a-
 2. What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is
 3. Un - to the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He



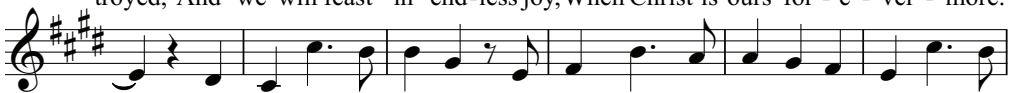
lone. What is our on - ly con - fi dence? That our souls to Him be
 good. Where is His grace and good-ness known? In our great Re-dee-mer's
 lives!" And what re - ward will hea-ven bring? E - ver - las - ting life with



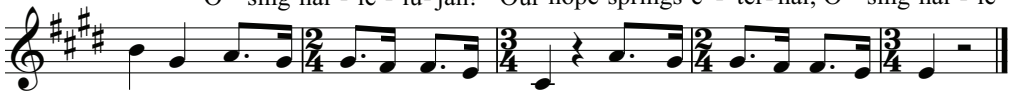
long. Who holds our days with - in His hand? What comes, a - part from His com-
 blood. Who holds our faith when fears a-rise? Who stands a - bove the stor-my
 Him. There we will rise to meet the Lord, Then sin and death will be des-



mand? And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.
 trial? Who sends the waves that bring us nigh Un - to the shore, the rock of Christ?
 troyed, And we will feast in end-less joy, When Christ is ours for - e - ver - more.



— O sing hal - le - lu - jah! Our hope springs e - ter - nal; O sing hal - le



lu - jah! Now and e - ver we con - fess Christ our hope in life and death.

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

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

Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org

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Dan Adamson

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Your email inquiry will be promptly answered.

Gene Pierson

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Interim Director of Children's Ministry: nicole@covenantchicago.org

Ian Troll

Director of 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, 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 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*

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