

The point of the resurrection...is that the present bodily life is not valueless just because it will die...What you do with your body in the present matters because God has a great future in store for it... What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself—will last into God's future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether (as the hymn so mistakenly puts it...). They are part of what we may call building for God's kingdom.

~ N.T. Wright, Surprised by Hope

cover by Leilani Pierson

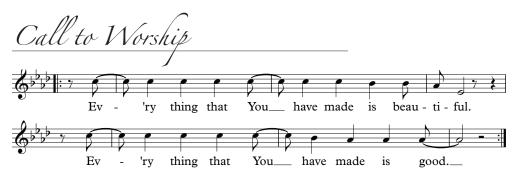
Children's programming is available during both services on the lower level, see page 14 for details.

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

Welcome

Silent moment to prepare for worship

By your power may we, with all the saints, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with your fullness. Amen.



from Genesis 1. Isaiah 55. and Psalm 8

Leader: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth

and it was good.

All: God said "let there be light"

And he filled the heavens with the sun, moon, and stars,
And he gave us days, years, and seasons
and it was good.

Leader: God said "let there be land and water"

And he filled it with swarms of all living things big and small

And it was good.

All: And God made us in his image, In the image of God he made us, And it was very good.

Leader: Let us go out with joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills will sing; the trees of the field will clap their hands.

And we will all shout:

All: O LORD, our Lord, You are good!

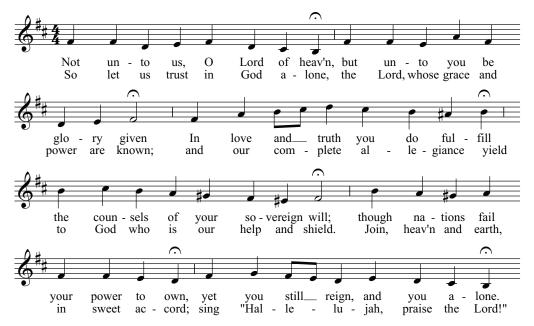


Praise the Lord All Praise and Blessing, Words and Music, Matt Scott, 2013, addl. text, vdBijl, 2017

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: Holy Father, everything that you have made is beautiful and good and we are overwhelmed with joy that you have made us in your image. We thank you and with all of creation sing of your glory.

moment of silent meditation



Not Unto Us, words, Psalter, 1912; music, V. Schumann, 1539.

Leader: Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit, visit us with your presence today. Amen.



From Colossians 1:9-11

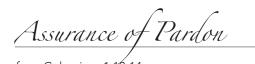
Leader:

Be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.

All: Loving Father, you have placed us in the kingdom of your beloved Son. Forgive us, because we easily forget all that we've been given and start walking in our own ways. Grant us your wisdom and understanding that we may walk in a manner worthy of you, with endurance and patience.







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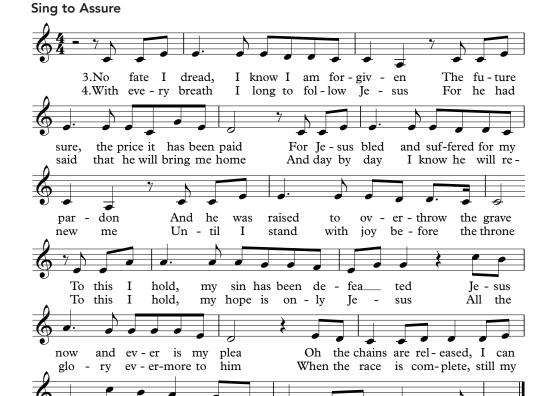
Yet

sing:

lips

Leader: Give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

All: He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.



Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me, Jonny Robinson, St. Pauls Anglican Church Castle Hill, New South Wales, Australia, 2018

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Lessons from the Word

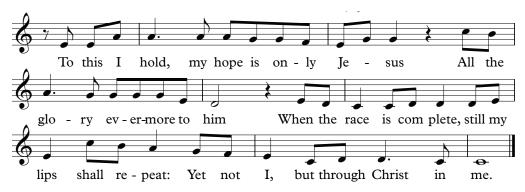
read by Fernando Kim ①, Shawn Bandel ②

Old Testament Lesson -New Testament Lesson -

Isaiah 52.7-10, p.613 Romans 8.18-25, p.944

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God



The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker Your Kingdom Come, Mark 4:21–34, p.839

²¹ And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? ²² For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." ²⁴ And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. ²⁵ For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

²⁶ And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰ And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Notes:



The Lord's Prayer, Words and Music, Paul van der Bijl, 2012, based on the Lord's Prayer, verse 3 based on a Latin hymn

Sacrament of Communion

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: 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.

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.

Praise God, from whom all bles-sings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be - low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A-men.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, Music, German Psalter, 1561

Eastertide Great Thanksgiving

by Samuel Wells, vicar, St. Martin-in-the-fields, Church of England, 2016

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: We rejoice to give you thanks and praise, God of love,

because you called us to exist in your image,
you filled the earth with wonder and beauty and life,
and you made the children of Abraham your covenant people.

Leader: You made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood,

a holy nation, your own people.

And in the death and resurrection of Jesus you show us the way, the truth, and the life.

All: Once we were not a people, but now we are your people;

once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.

Leader: And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels

and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

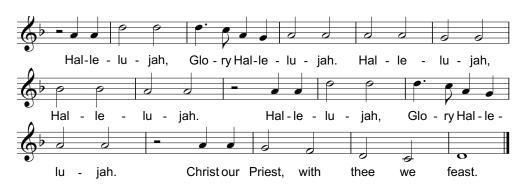
God of power and might,

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.





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.

New Communicants

Brendan Fisher

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.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Grant also that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Music for Communion

You are welcome to join in song:



Jesus! We Bow Before Thy Feet, Words: Isaac Watts, 1700s, Music, The Sacred Harp, 1850, arr. vdbijl, 2014

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.



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.



The Morning Trumpet, Words: John Leland , 1793; Music from the Sacred Harp, 1844; addl. text, vdbijl, 2016

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.

Welcome to Covenant Presbyterian Church

TODAY AT COVENANT

1st Service, 9am

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

- Nursery: Ages 0-4 (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: Pre-K-8th (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: High School (Youth Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Loss, Heartache, and Gospel Transformation (All Saints Room, Lower Level)
- Adult Education: Not the Way It's Supposed to Be (Conference Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Feasts, Lost Sheep and a Tiny Mustard Seed (Library, Ed Building)
- Coffee and snacks available in all classrooms and the Fellowship Hall

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Cora Passis, Jennie and Ryan Von Drehle (9:00); Christie Kay, Lynda Adamson, Matthew Siefert (11:15)

Ushers: Kim Edison (9:00); James Leach (11:15)

Musicians: Brian Riggs, bass, classical guitar; Paul van der Bijl, guitar, vocals., Cassidy Miller, vocals

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.

One Service Sundays: We'll have one service at 10:15 am on May 28, June 25, July 2, August 27 and September 3. There will be no Common Ground on these days. Childcare will be available during service for children birth through 5th grade. Plan to join us for an all-church cookout after service on June 25 and August 27.



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/.

Feasts, Lost Sheep and a Tiny Mustard Seed: 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 class on the parables at 10:15 in the Library. Today, Young Bok Kim will teach on the parable of the Good Samaritan.

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 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. Today, Jason Stanghelle will teach on the parasitic nature of sin and sin as folly.

Loss, Heartache, and Gospel Transformation: Living in this broken world, no one escapes heartache over the course of their lifetime. So, how do we experience the gospel in a way that breaks the patterns of harm so we don't continue to pass our pain onto others? In this three week class, we will explore how Jesus invites his church to be a place of radical honor and honesty in telling our stories, the crucial role of grief and lament in discipleship, and how the gospel leads to real, lasting change in our hearts, minds, and bodies. Join us for this class taught by Pastor David Salsedo today at 10:15 in the All Saints Room.

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 Matt Ver Steeg (msversteeg@hotmail.com) with questions.

Summer Dinners Together: Join others from Covenant for potluck gatherings throughout the city this summer. One June 3, July 8 and July 29, Covenant is organizing backyard dinners for groups of 12-20 throughout the city. If you'd be interested in attending or hosting one of these get-togethers, please fill out the form on the Welcome Table, on our website (https://covenantchicago.org/events/dinner-together/) or email Larissa Bossemeyer (lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org).

Sunday Morning Sound Technicians Needed: No experience is neccesary and training will be provided. If you are interested in helping run sound on Sunday mornings please contact Russell Kamp at russellkamp@gmail. com.

Ushers Needed: Ushers are the first people to greet people as they come to Covenant. They pass out the orders of worship, help people find the bathrooms and classrooms, and help at the end of service to clean up the sanctuary. Most ushers serve once a month. If you'd like to join our usher team, please contact Margret-Ann Natsis (margretann.natsis@gmail.com).

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).

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.

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.

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).

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 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, 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 ↑
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

2012 W. Dickens Chicago, IL 60647 773.486.9590

covenantchicago.org