

the
Weight of Glory

January 9, 2022 | 1st Sunday of Epiphany



On Epiphany day,
we are still the people walking.
We are still people in the dark,
and the darkness looms large around us,
beset as we are by fear,
anxiety,
brutality,
violence,
loss —
a dozen alienations that we cannot manage.

We are — we could be — people of your light.
So we pray for the light of your glorious presence
as we wait for your appearing;
we pray for the light of your wondrous grace
as we exhaust our coping capacity;
we pray for your gift of newness that
will override our weariness;
we pray that we may see and know and hear and trust
in your good rule.

That we may have energy, courage, and freedom to enact
your rule through the demands of this day.
We submit our day to you and to your rule, with deep joy and high hope.

~ Walter Brueggemann



*Children's programming is available 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.



Call to Worship

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!**



1. Praise the Lord all praise and bless - ing. Rend - er to His migh - ty name.____
2. Stars a - bove in bril - liant glo - ry. Sun that scat - ters wide its gold.____



Thank Him ev - er for His good - ness. Now and ev - er mo - re the same.____
Birds a - loft all join the chor - us. ev - ery crea - ture young and old.____



Now and ev - er mo re the same.____ He cre - a - ted ear - th and hea - ven.
ev - ery crea - ture young. and old.____ Hills and moun - tains raise their voi - ces.



Deep - est sea and all there - in.____ Small est cre - ture high - est be - ing.
Trees and for - ests clap their hands.____ E - ven stones will not be si - lent.



Let your an - thems now be - gin.____ Let your an - thems now be gin.____
Sing his praise through - out the lands.____ Sing his praise through out the lands.

Chorus



Ev - 'ry thing that You have made is beau - ti - ful.



Ev - 'ry thing that You have made is good.____

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

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: O God, our Father, creator of the universe, everything that you have made is beautiful and good. In this season of Epiphany we remember that your Son, Jesus Christ, came to our world, and that he is present now by the power of your Holy Spirit.

All: **Come Holy Spirit.**
Breath into us the breath of life.
Remind us of our baptism.
Renew in us your salvation. Amen.

1.O Breath of Life, come sweep-ing through us.
2.O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
Re- vive your church with life and pow'r. O Breath of Life, come cleanse re-
'til humbly we con-fess our need. Then in your ten-der - ness, re-
new us and fit your church to meet this hour.
make us. Re- vive, re - store, for this we plead.
O Breath of Love, come breathe with - in us,
re - new-ing thought and will and heart. Come, love of Christ, a - fresh to
win us. Re vive your church in ev - ery part.

O Breath of Life, Words: Bessie Porter Head, 1920; Music Andy Piercy, 2006

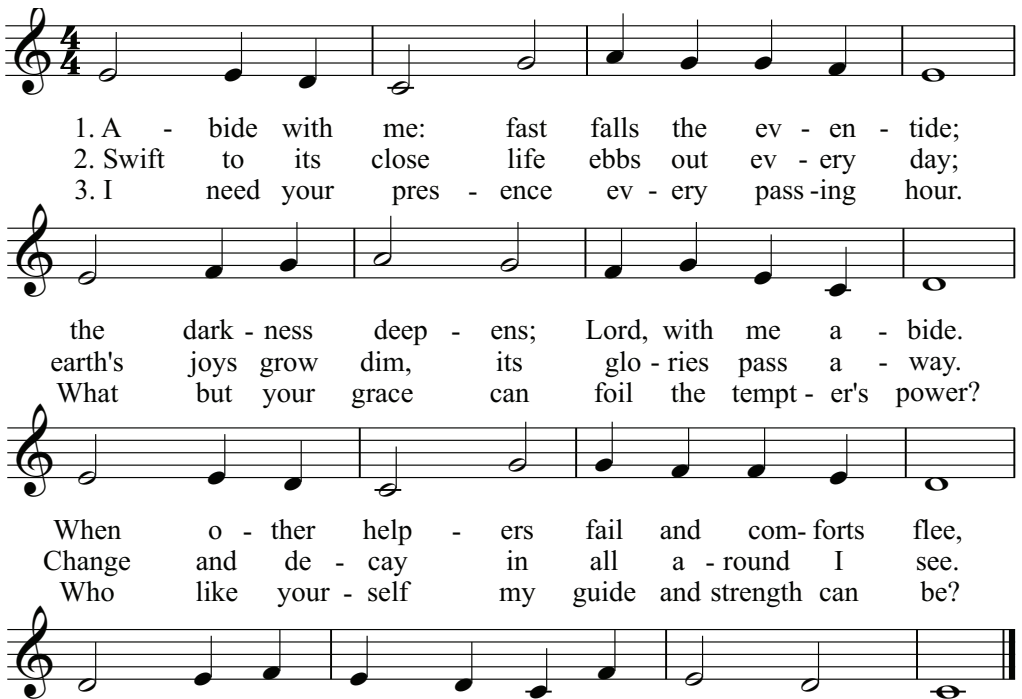
Confession of Sin

from John 15

Leader: Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."

All: Jesus, you have bound us to yourself in love, and we draw our life from you. Forgive us our tendency to sustain ourselves and find our meaning in anything but your grace and mercy.

Silent time to pray and confess



1. A - bide with me: fast falls the ev - en - tide;
2. Swift to its close life ebbs out ev - ery day;
3. I need your pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour.

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way.
What but your grace can foil the tempt - er's power?

When o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
Who like your - self my guide and strength can be?

Help of the help - less, Lord, a - bide with me.
O Lord who chang - es not, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.

Abide With Me, Words: Henry Lyte, 1847, Music: William Monk, 1861

Assurance of Pardon

from John 15 and Romans 8

Leader: Jesus promises, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

All: **There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set us free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.**

4. I fear no foe with you at hand to bless,
though ills have weight, and tears their bit - ter - ness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your vic - to - ry?
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Lessons from the Word

read by Chris and Dave Jarvis ①, Jared Knelsen ②

Old Testament Lesson -

Isaiah 51.1-3

New Testmaent Lesson -

Matthew 26.69-75

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

O Breath of Love, come breathe with - in us,
re - new - ing thought and will and heart. Come, love of Christ, a - fresh to
win us. Re vive_ your church in ev - ery part.

The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker

God, Who Comforts the Downcast, 2 Corinthians 7:2–9

² Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. ³ do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. ⁴ I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

⁵ For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. ⁶ But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷ and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. ⁸ For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. ⁹ As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

Notes:

Passing the Peace and Preparing the Gifts

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 peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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.

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

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.

Great Thanksgiving from the Scottish Episcopal Church (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.

With clear hearts and minds,
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.
Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.
Day and night celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

All: In Christ, your only-begotten Son, you have revealed yourself to the world.

Leader: Filled with the Spirit,
who descended upon your Son at his Baptism in the Jordan,

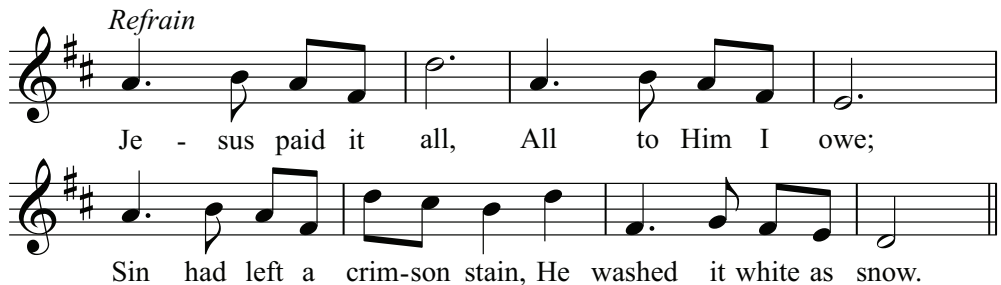
**All: we who are baptised in his name strive for his heavenly kingdom
in whose radiance we are transfigured and the earth transformed.**

Leader: As children of your redeeming purpose, who celebrate the epiphany of your Son,
we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**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.**

Refrain



Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crim-son stain, He washed it white as snow.

Distribute the Bread & Cup

Please note that we serve both red wine and white grape juice.
There is individually wrapped gluten free bread available.

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:



1. I ___ hear the Sa - vior say, "Thy stength in - deed is small,
2. Lord, _ now in - deed I find Thy pow'r and Thine a - lone,
3. For ___ noth - ing good have I Where - by Thy grace to claim;
4. And ___ now com-plete in Him My robe His right - e ness,



Child of weak-ness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all."
Can ___ change the le - per's spots And _ melt the heart of stone.
I'll ___ wash my gar-ments white In the blood of Cal-v'ry's Lamb.
Close _ shel - tered 'neath His side, I ___ am di - vine - ly blest.

Refrain



Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe;



Sin had left a crim-sin stain, He washed it white as snow.

Jesus Paid it All, Words: Elvina M. Hall, 1865; Music: John T. Grape 1868, Bridge, Kristian Stanfill, Passion City Church, Atlanta, GA., 2012

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.

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.

5. And when, be-fore the throne, I stand in Him com- plete,
"Je- sus died my soul to save," My lips shall still re- peat.
Refrain
Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crim-son stain, He washed it white as snow.
Bridge
O praise the One who paid my debt and rais'd this life up from the dead.

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score includes a main verse, a refrain, and a bridge, each with its own musical notation and lyrics.

In Community

Announcements about Covenant events and opportunities during the coming weeks.

Go With Joy

All:

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate emphasis or phrasing. The melody is simple and melodic, with a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: 'Our Fa- ther, who in hea- ven be, All hal- low- ed praise we sing to Give us th- is day our dai- ly bread. For give our__ debt- ors and our All praise to__ Thee, the God of Light; All Praise to__ Christ, the glo- rious Thee. And as we__ hail your king- dom come, We debt. And from temp- ta- tion lead the way. Guard Son; And to the__ Sp- rit, Lord of might, Now, al- so__ pray your will be done. Your will be us from__ ev- il till the day, Your king- dom and e- ter- nal a- ges run. All praise to done Your will be done, Your will be done, Your will be done. come, Your king- dom come, Your king- dom come, Your king- dom come. Thee, All praise to Thee, All praise to Thee, All praise to Thee.'

Our Fa- ther, who in hea- ven be, All hal- low- ed praise we sing to
Give us th- is day our dai- ly bread. For give our__ debt- ors and our
All praise to__ Thee, the God of Light; All Praise to__ Christ, the glo- rious
Thee. And as we__ hail your king- dom come, We
debt. And from temp- ta- tion lead the way. Guard
Son; And to the__ Sp- rit, Lord of might, Now,
al- so__ pray your will be done. Your will be
us from__ ev- il till the day, Your king- dom
and e- ter- nal a- ges run. All praise to
done Your will be done, Your will be done, Your will be done.
come, Your king- dom come, Your king- dom come, Your king- dom come.
Thee, All praise to Thee, All praise to Thee, All praise to Thee.

*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*

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.

Welcome to Covenant Presbyterian Church

TODAY AT COVENANT

1st Service, 9am

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

2nd service, 11:15am

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

Common Ground, 10:15am

- Coffee and snacks **available in classrooms** and the Fellowship Hall
- Nursery: Ages 0-4 (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: PreK-Middle School (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: High School (Youth Room, Ed. Building)
- This Act of Grace: Thinking Biblically About Giving (Library, Ed. Building)
- Read This Book: How to Read Scripture (All Saints Room, Lower Level)

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Large Print orders of worship are available in the back of the sanctuary.

There are printed copies of Bible reading plans available on the Welcome Table.

Hearing Assistance: Covenant is pleased to announce it now has electronic devices to assist those with difficulty hearing during the service. The receivers are available in the narthex. Ushers can assist you with finding and using the receivers. The receivers can be paired with your personal earbuds or headphones, as well with most hearing aids.

Current Mask Requirements: In accordance with the city's mask mandate, Covenant requires masks for everyone over 2 at both services and during Common Ground.

Read This Book: How to Read Scripture. Many of us start or renew our habit of reading Scripture at the start of the year. But why do we do it and how do we read the Word of God well? Join us this month for a 4-week class on how to read Scripture. We'll talk about how to benefit from reading Scripture through study and meditation, and focus on how the story of redemption ties the different genres and sections of Scripture together. Join us in the All Saints Room during Common Ground at 10:15 am.

This Act of Grace: Thinking Biblically about Giving. The Apostle Paul calls giving an act of grace when he writes to the church in Corinth. What does it look like for us to give well of our money and possessions? What does Scripture teach us about who we should give to and how much? Join us for a 4-week class on giving as we think through Old Testament and New Testament lessons on the Christian practice of giving. We'll meet in the Library of the Education Building during Common Ground at 10:15 this month.

Save the Date: The women's winter luncheon will take place Sunday, February 27 from 12:30-2:30 pm, in the Education Building, and will feature a variety of voices on the topic of integrating our faith with our work. Look for more information soon.



Gospel Justice Center Prayer Team: Last summer, Covenant launched the Gospel Justice Center, our chapter of a legal services clinic that serves our neighborhood on the second Saturday of every month from 9am to 12pm. We are looking for a few more volunteers who would be willing to join our team onsite to pray for us and our clients while we serve them. If you are interested in learning more about the work of the GJC or volunteering for our prayer team or in other ways, please email Linda Gehrs (lmgehrs@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).

Ushers Needed: Covenant is looking for additional volunteers to serve as ushers on Sunday morning. Ushers greet people as they arrive to church and help clean up the sanctuary after the service. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Jonathan Ellison (jellisonimages@gmail.com).

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).

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.

2021 Contribution Statements: Covenant will begin sending out year-end giving statements soon. All giving statements will be sent via email. If you would like a mailed statement, please contact Gene Pierson (gpierson@covenantchicago.org). If you have moved this year or have a new email address, please update your information on the tear out card so we can be sure to send your statement to the correct address.

Sermon Text Next Week: 2 Corinthians 7:10-16

Giving QR Code



Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker
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Jeff Schneider
Church Planting Pastor, jeff@blvdpres.org

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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, 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*

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