# BEHOLD HIS GLORY

4th Sunday of Epiphany | January 28, 2024 | Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago

# Epiphany

Signs! Signs! A thundering dove Descended to creation, Himself a sign of sacred love,

His cry a consecration:
"My son, with thee

Signs! Signs! Consignments of wine
Surpassing sixty gallon
Revived a wedding in decline

When lesser liquors failed them.

Whose was the brew?

Disciples knew.

Am I well pleased."

Signs! Signs! A face inflamed

Climbed the crown of the mountain.

Two brothers and blowhard came,
And the cloud cried out above them,
"Heed my Son,
My Begotten One!"

Signs! Signs! The world is a book
And what is not the writing?

Nature's finger emblazons the sky

with signs of a wild excitment: Epiphanies.

Epiphanies. Epiphanies.

~ Walter Wangerin Jr.

**Children's programming** is available during both services on the lower level, see page 16 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.



Come Christians Join to Sing, Words: Christian Bateman, 1843. Music: Spanish melody.

# Call to Worship

The Venite, Psalm 95

Leader: Come let us sing to the Lord;

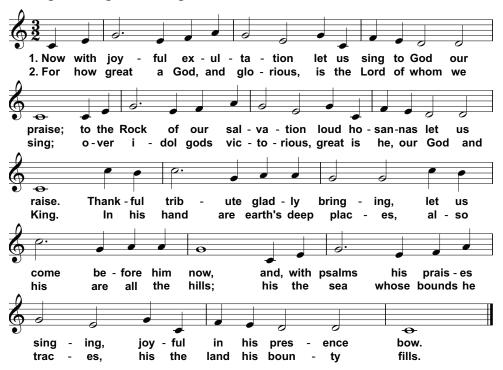
All: let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Leader: Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

All: and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

Leader: For the Lord is a great God,

All: and a great King above all gods.



Psalm 95, Words: Psalter, 1912; Music, arr. from Gregorian Chant by Lowell Mason, 1839

Leader: Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

All: and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

Leader: For the Lord is a great God,

All: and a great King above all gods.

# Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

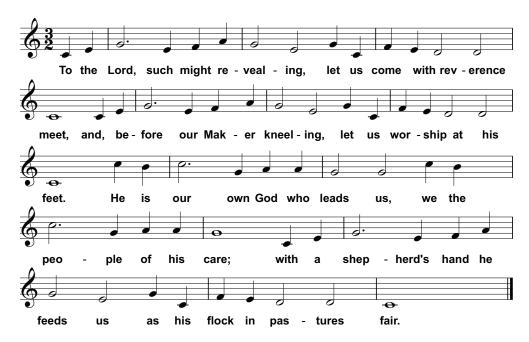
Leader:

O God, our Maker, we bend our knee and kneel before you in adoration. In this season of Epiphany we remember in gratefulness how your Son, Jesus Christ, came to our world and we beheld his glory.

Come Holy Spirit,

All: and visit us with your presence today.

moment of silent adoration



Leader:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

All: Father, we want to control our circumstances and those around us because our anxiety consumes us and we do not trust you.

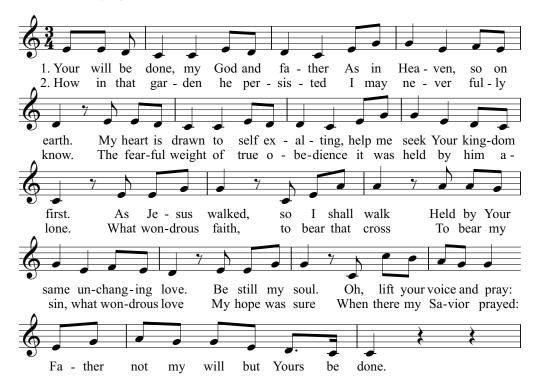
Forgive us our unbelief

and grant us the strength to seek you in prayer.

Fill our hearts with your joy

and may our gentleness be known to all.

Silent time to pray and confess

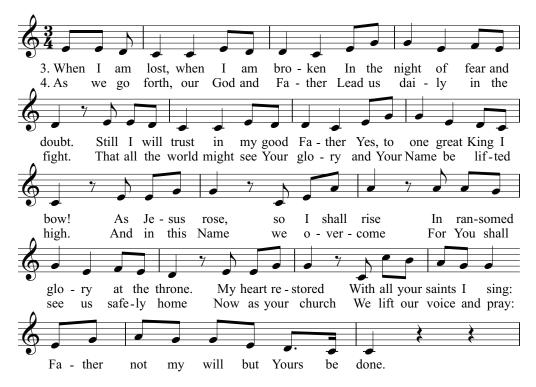


Your Will Be Done, Jonny Robinson, St. Pauls Anglican Church Castle Hill, New South Wales, Australia, 2020

Leader:

While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, and now that we are reconciled we will we be saved by his life. We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

All: And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.



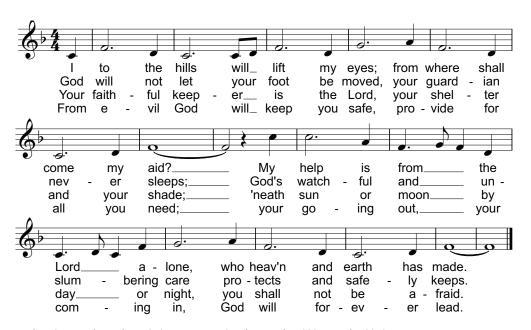
# Lessons from the Word

read by Mark Hicks ①, Lamont Black ②

Old Testament Lesson - Genesis 28.10-17, p.22
New Testament Lesson - Revelation 19.11-16, p.1040

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God



Psalm 121, Words, Psalter, 1912; Music, attr. Stephen Jenks 1832, arr. vdB, 2013

## The Word

Pastor Dan Adamson Glory Under the Fig Tree, John 1.35-51, p.886

<sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup> He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup> And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

## 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.



Sursum Corda, music by Terry Scott Taylor and Steve Hindalong, 2002

# 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 17, or text a donation amount to 84321.

## **New Communicant**

Ani von Drehle

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



Praise him a-bove ye heav'-nly hosts. Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

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

Leader: As we approach this meal, we thank and praise you

because you make these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine,

into the means of our redemption,

and you turn our fallen folly into the occasion of your risen glory.

All: In Christ the Lamb you gave us every good thing.

Leader: Though we strayed from your ways and slayed your holy one,

All: you set before us this gracious banquet

in which that crucified and risen Lamb reconciles us with you.

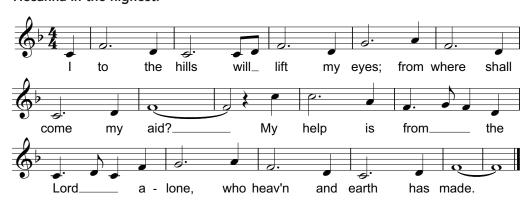
Leader: And so we live in gratitude for your mercy

and in praise of your grace,

joining the the company of heaven in their constant hymn:

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 & 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.

## 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.

# Song for Communion

You are welcome to join in song:



Wedlock, Words: James Montgomery, 1822, Music, Traditional American Melody, 1844, chorus & arr. vdB, 2023

# 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.



I Will Glory in My Redeemer by Steven and Vikki Cook, 2000

# 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.

# 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

- Coffee and snacks in the Fellowship Hall
- Nursery: Ages 0-4 (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: PreK-8th Grade (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: High School (Youth Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Ezra-Nehemiah (Conference Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: In Abundance and Need (Library, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: What's the Big Deal about the Kingdom (All Saints Room, Lower Level)

## Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Jonathan Spalink, Steve and Holly Lehmann (9:00); Lynda Adamson, Rich Lane,

Matthew Siefert (11:15)

Ushers: Margret-Ann Natsis, Mark Scheerhorn, Matthew Clay (9:00); Michael Bergstrom, Jon Skinner (11:15)

Welcome Table: Peggy Adamson (9:00)

Musicians: Matthew Siefert, bass; Adriane Fink, piano; Stephen Moroz, vocals, saxaphone; Paul van der Bijl,

guitar, vocals; Cassidy Miller, vocals; Sarah Hall Gonzalez, vocal; Danny Medina, sound technician.

Large Print orders of worship and electronic hearing assistance devices are available in the back of the sanctuary. An usher can assist you with finding and using these items.

## COMMON GROUND CLASSES

What's the Big Deal about the Kingdom? Why did Jesus talk so much about the Kingdom of Heaven and what is its importance to us today? Join us for this 4-week class as we explore what the kingdom is, where it is, how we can encounter it, and what it looks like to become its citizens. Each week, we'll use a different spiritual discipline to explore this topic such as lectio divina and the examen. This class meets in the All Saints Room and is taught by Jeanie Hoover and Michele Dillon.

**Ezra-Nehemiah:** Return, Rebuilding, and Reformation: Join us for this 4 week class designed to dive into the historical and theological dimensions of Ezra-Nehemiah. This class will serve to provide a comprehensive overview and focus on the three key themes of the book: the rebuilding of the house of God, the significance of ordinary people and the profound impact of the written word. Young Bok Kim (PhD in Near Eastern Languages, University of Chicago) will teach this class beginning today inthe Conference Room.

In Abundance and In Need: How Money Forms Us. Money is a part of many of our daily interactions – sometimes consciously and often hidden in the background. How does money shape us and how can the Bible speak to how we spend, save, give and manage money in our modern economy? Join us for this class as we discuss what money is, its role in our lives and how we can steward it. This class will meet in the Library and will be taught by Brad Lewis, Patrick Fisher and Lamont Black.

#### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ash Wednedsay: Join us on February 14 for a service at 7 pm in the sanctuary. There will be imposition of ashes for those who want to receive it and we'll celebrate the Lord's Supper. Childcare is available for children 4 and under

**Newcomers Gathering:** Join us on February 18th from 6 to 8 pm to learn more about Covenant and get to know some of Covenant's staff and others who are new to our community. We'll meet at a home in Roscoe Village for appetizers and desserts. To learn more or to RSVP, contact Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

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 women from Covenant in the All Saints Room at Covenant from 9 to 11 am each Wednesday for a small group. You're welcome to join whether you're able to come weekly or occasionally. This winter, they will read Faithful: A Theology of Sex by Beth Felker Jones. Childcare is available. Contact Devon Spencer (devonspencer1112@gmail.com) with questions about this group.

Chicagoland United in Prayer. Together Chicago and their partner organization, Chicagoland United in Prayer, are hosting their annual prayer gathering on Sunday, February 4th at Apostolic Faith Church from 5-7pm. Christians from all over the city gather to pray for peace, justice, righteousness, and thriving in our city, and we're invited to join them. Learn more and register to attend at https://chiunitepray.com/chicagoland-united-in-prayer-2024/.

Men's Retreat: Mark your calendars for April 26-28 for Covenant's annual men's retreat at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, WI. More information is coming soon. Contact men@covenantchicago.org with questions.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**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).

Gospel Justice Center Volunteers: Covenant hosts a legal aid clinic the second Saturday morning of every month, and we are growing! We are looking for folks to add to our current roster of volunteers. No legal experience or background is necessary and training is provided for all roles. We're in particular need of people to help with clients directly as intake specialists and as client advocates or people who can help with marketing by creating a brochure or managing a social media account. Please contact Linda Gehrs (LMGehrs@gmail. com) with questions or for more information. The commitment at most is one Saturday morning a month, but most volunteers serve one Saturday every two months.

## **NEWS AND UPDATES**

Emergency Childcare: No one likes to think about tough times, especially if children are involved, but in the spirit of "bearing one another's burdens," Covenant is hoping to compile a list of people who could help with short-term childcare after a medical emergency, car or bike accident, or other similar event. Students, retirees, stay-at-home moms, nannies with available days, or others with some free time who enjoy working with children, are invited to contact Deb Van Der Molen (dvmolen79@gmail.com) for an application, which requests information about prior childcare experience, first aid certification, and references. Financial compensation would be available.

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

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.

Officer Nominations: Once a year, the congregation nominates qualified candidates for the offices of Elder and Deacon at Covenant. Please prayerfully consider your nominations. Nominations will be considered by the Session and then invitations will be made to join an officer training class. Nominees who have gone through training and been examined will be placed before the congregation for election. If you'd like to make a nomination, you can pick up a form from the Welcome Table.

Let Us Pray for You. Covenant's staff meets to pray for the congregation throughout the week. We would be honored to pray for you. You can share prayer requests by writing them on the tear out portion at the back of the order of worship or by emailing Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

Sermon Text Next Week: Mark 2.1-12



Giving QR code

# **Pastoral Staff**

Aaron Baker Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org

Dan Adamson Associate Pastor, dadamson@covenantchicago.org

# Support Staff

Larissa Bossemeyer

Director of Ministries: lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org

Gene Pierson

Director of Finance & Property: gpierson@covenantchicago.org

Ian Troll

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: ian@covenantchicago.org

Paul van der Bijl

Director of Worship and Music: pvanderbijl@covenantchicago.org

## Session

Aaron Baker (Moderator), Dan Adamson, David Dillon, Dave Hoover, Brad Lewis, Steve Lehmann, Joshua Norton

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

# Diaconate

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

Treasurer: Ben Harvey

If you're in need or wish to speak with a deacon, you can email us at diaconate@covenantchicago.org.

## Welcome to Covenant

Please fill out this form, tear it out, and put it in one of the offering boxes at the back of the church.

circle one:

New to Covenant   Regular Attender   Member	
Name:	
Email:	
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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covenantchicago.org

