



February 12, 2023 | 6th Sunday of Epiphany

The Avowal

As swimmers dare to lie face to the sky and water bears them, as hawks rest upon air and air sustains them, so would I learn to attain freefall, and float into Creator Spirit's deep embrace, knowing no effort earns that all-surrounding grace.

~ Denise Levertov

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

Silent moment to prepare for worship

Call to Worship



Immortal, Invisible, Words: Walter C. Smith, 1876., Music: St. Denio, Welsh melody, 1839

Call to Worship

from Daniel 7 and Revelation 19

Leader: Behold, with the clouds of heaven

there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

All: His dominion is an everlasting dominion,

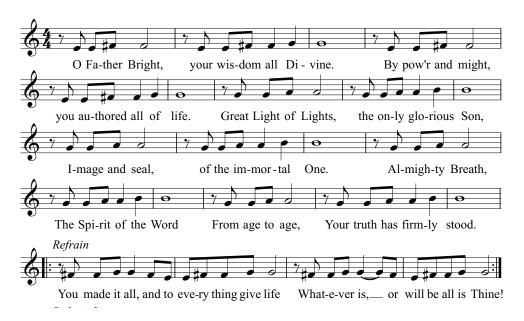
which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Leader: Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many

waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

All: Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory. for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready."



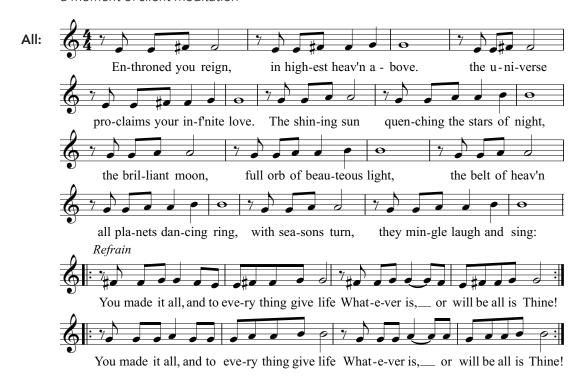
The Holy Trinity, based on text by Gregory of Nazianzus, Archbishop of Constantinople (330-391) music and addl. text by Paul van der Bijl, 2022

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: Prayer of adoration:

O Lord, the immortal Father and the Ancient of Days, you have come to us like a son of man in your Son, Jesus Christ. You made it all and to everything give life, your dominion is an everlasting dominion and we praise and adore you.

a moment of silent meditation



Leader: Father, by the power your Spirit and in the name of your Son Jesus,

All: open our eyes and hearts to your presence among us today. Amen.

Confession of Sin, from James 4

Leader:

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your pleasures. Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

But God gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

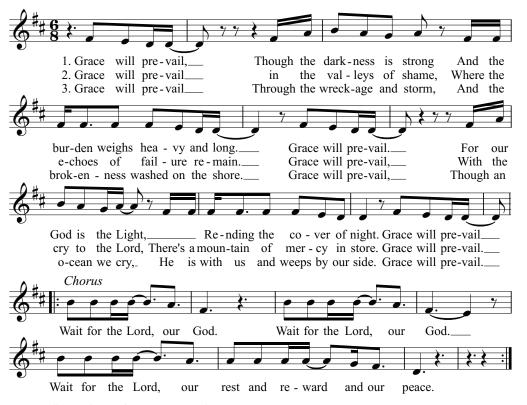
All: Father, forgive us for we consume everything and everyone around us and are never satisfied.

We are overwhelmed by the passions at war within us.

Yet you give us even more grace.

Grant us the humility to draw near to you.

Silent time to pray and confess



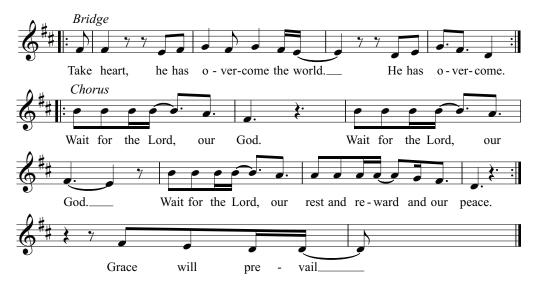
Grace Will Prevail, by Kirk Sauers and Paul Ranheim, First Presbyterian, Augusta, GA, 2022

Assurance of Pardon, from Ephesians 2:4-7

Leader:

But God, being rich in mercy, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Sing to Assure



Lessons from the Word

read by Ben Harvey ①, Joshua and Hanah Vissepo ②

Old Testament Lesson - Psalm 110.1-3, p.509 Gospel Lesson - Mark 13.24-27, p.850

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

Jude 23-24, by Sandra McCracken, 2016, Westside Anglican Fellowship, Nashville, TN.

The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker That He Might Bring Us to God, 1 Peter 3.18-22, p.1016

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Notes:

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

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.

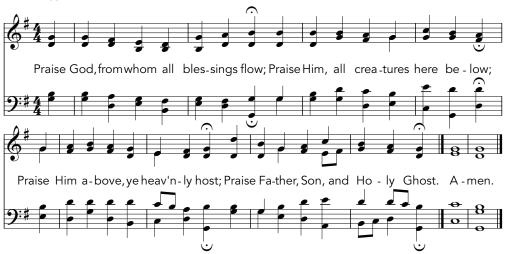
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

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 16, or text a donation amount to 84321.

All: Doxology



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

The Great Thanksgiving, from The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2013

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.

We thank you that in our baptism you assure us that you will be with us always.

When, in the beginning, the deep dark waters churned,

All: Your Spirit hovered over them.

Leader: When, in Noah's day,

the waters engulfed everything and destroyed the world,

All: You saved your faithful people, whom you loved.

Leader: When, in Egypt, Pharaoh's army hotly pursued Israel to the sea,

All: God parted the waters and led his people through to safety.

Leader: When, in the dead of night on Galilee's raging sea

Jesus' disciples feared for their lives,

All: You called, "It is I; do not fear."

Leader: Time and again, You saved our drowning ancestors,

and promised also to rescue us.

All: For Christ, our Savior,

went down into the depths of hell and rose up victorious from them.

Therefore, we receive God's baptismal promise,

trusting that he will rescue us from the dark depths of sin and death

and bring us to safe shore and firm ground.

Leader: Therefore we raise our voices with all creation and sing

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.



You made it all, and to eve-ry thing give life What-e-ver is, __ or will be all is Thine!



You made it all, and to eve-ry thing give life What-e-ver is, ___ or will be all is Thine!

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.

Music for Communion

You are welcome to join in song:

How Great is Our God, Chris Tomlin, 2004

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty Let all the Earth rejoice All the Earth rejoice

He wraps himself in light And darkness tries to hide And trembles at His voice Trembles at His voice

Chorus

How great is our God, sing with me How great is our God, and all will see How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands And time is in His hands Beginning and the end Beginning and the end

The Godhead Three in One Father Spirit Son The Lion and the Lamb The Lion and the Lamb

Chorus

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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: How great is our God, sing with me

How great is our God, and all will see How great, how great is our God

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

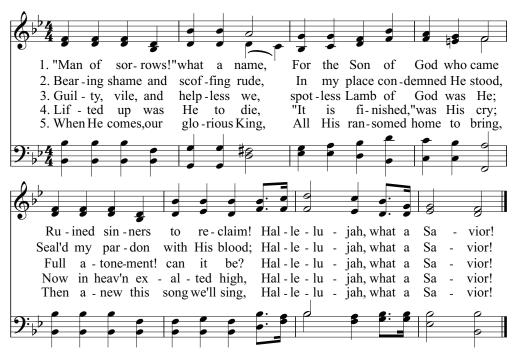
Apostle's Creed

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.

Go With Joy



Man of Sorrows, Words and Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1875

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

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: Bad Blood (Conference Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Beauty & Meaning (Library, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Practicing Faith with the Reformers (All Saints Room, Lower Level)
- Coffee and snacks available in all classrooms and the Fellowship Hall

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Kevin Jones, Ryan and Jennie von Drehle (9:00); Matthew Siefert, Phil Koerner (11:15)

Ushers: Craig and Cedric Horbinski (9:00); Phil Koerner (11:15)

Welcome Table:Phil Koerner (11:15)

Musicians: Mike Middleton, bass; Paul David Young, electric guitar; Adèle-Marie Buis, oboe; Elisabeth Jones, piano; Paul van der Bijl, guitar, vocals. Sound Technician, Joel Miller. Peter Seo, (Redemption Presbyterian Church), drums.

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.

Bad Blood: Join us for a class looking at the conflicts between biblical siblings. What can we learn about human relationships from the stories of these families in conflict? In their fallen responses to one another, where can we learn a model of grace? This class will meet in the Conference Room during Common Ground and will be taught by Larissa Bossemeyer and Mark Lester. This week: we'll look at Moses, Aaron and Miriam. Next week: Absalom, Amnon and Tamar.

Practicing Faith with the Reformers. What parts of our daily practice of faith draw their origin from the works of Luther, Calvin and other reformers? Join us as we look at some of the major names of the Reformation and focus on a few key doctrines that inform the way we practice, talk, and think about our faith. This class will meet in the All Saints Room during Common Ground. This week, Rich van der Molen will lead a discussion on Zwingli and the primacy of Scripture.

Beauty & Meaning: Exploring Covenant's Sanctuary. Covenant's sanctuary was built in the 1930s by a Polish Catholic congregation. Its paintings, windows and altar tell a story about that congregation as well as a story about the role of art in the history of Christianity. What can we learn about the Christian story from our building and how can we engage meaningfully with the art in our sanctuary? Join us for this three-week class led by Hanah Vissepo in the Library during Common Ground beginning today.

Ash Wednesday: The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and lasts until Holy Saturday, the Saturday before Easter. Join us for a service at 7 pm in the sanctuary on February 22. There will be an imposition of ashes for those who want to receive it and we'll celebrate the Lord's Supper. The staff will have a Lenten devotional guide available next week.

Earthquake Relief Fund. Mission to the World, the mission arm of our denomination, has established a fund

to provide aid to those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. You can read more about it and donate online (https://mtw.org/the-compassion-fund?t=tur_quake).



Newcomers Lunch: Covenant is hosting a welcome lunch on Sunday, February 26 at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall for those who are new to Covenant's community. This lunch is a great way to meet others at Covenant and hear from the staff about ways to get more connected to the church. Please RSVP to Pastor Dan (dadamson@ covenantchicago.org) by February 22. Childcare is available upon request.

Dinner Together: Get to know others at Covenant by joining us for upcoming meals in various homes throughout the city. Covenant is coordinating potluck dinners on February 18 and 25 for groups of 8 to 12. If you would be interested in attending a dinner on one of these evenings, please fill out the form on the Welcome Table or at covenantchicago.org/events/dinner-together/. Interested in hosting? Contact Pastor Dan Adamson (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 other women from Covenant on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11 am for a small group. They are currently studying Vanishing Grace by Phillip Yancey. 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.

Faith & Politics Mayoral Forum: The Chicago Partnership & The AND Campaign are hosting a mayoral forum on Sunday, February 19th from 4 to 6 pm at Progressive Baptist Church (3658 S. Wentworth). Covenant is a partner church for this forum, and we hope you'll consider attending.

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 quests, and pray for us to grow in our ability to become a more known presence in our neighborhood.



WORLD TELEF Mercy Bin for World Relief: Help support refugees who have recently been resettled in Chicago by providing a starter kit for their new home. Please stop by the Welcome Table or head to our website (covenantchicago.org/mercy-bin) for a full list of needed

items or drop off a Target gift card to help complete the needed set. The last day to donate items will be February 19.

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.

Streaming Service: Covenant's live stream is publicly available Sundays until 12:30 pm. If you're traveling or homebound and miss that window, you can email streaming@ covenantchicago.org for a link to the archived service.

Giving QR Code

Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org

David Salsedo

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Associate Pastor, dadamson@covenantchicago.org

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Paul van der Bijl

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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

Name:

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

circle one:

New to Covenant | Regular Attender | Member

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

