

Prayer For all the pain passed down the genes or latent in the very grain of being; for the lordless mornings, the smear of spirit words intuit and inter: for all the nightfall neverness

inking into me

even now, my prayer is that a mind

blurred by anxiety

or despair might find

here

a trace of peace.

~ Christian Wiman

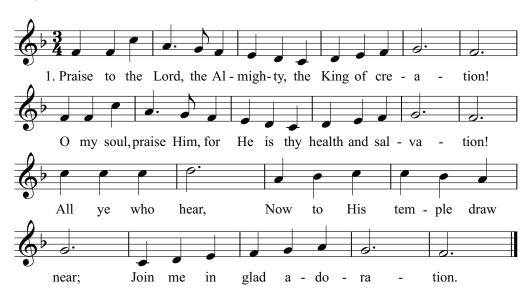
1st Sunday of Lent Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago **Children's programming** is available during both services on the lower level, see page 15 for details.

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

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.



Lenten Call to Worship

adapted from Isaiah 35:1–4, 10

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;

the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

it shall blossom abundantly

and rejoice with joy and singing.

All: We shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

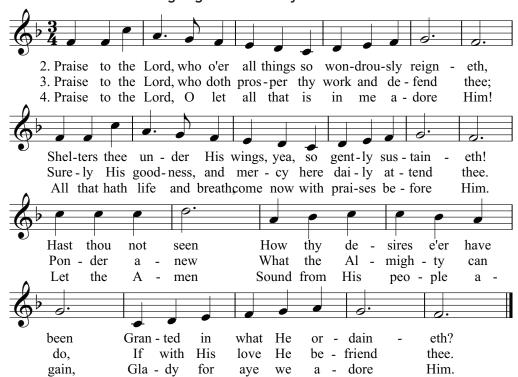
Leader: He will strengthen our weak hands,

and make firm our feeble knees.

He will say to us who have an anxious heart,

"Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God

All: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon our heads; we shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.



Praise to the Lord, Words: Joachim Neander, 1680. Music: Erneuerten Gesangbuch, 1665.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader:

O God, our Father, almighty King of creation, we lift our hands in adoration and bless you. In this season of Lent walk with us in our own wilderness as you did with your Son Jesus Christ.

All: Come Holy Spirit, strengthen our weak hands, feeble knees and anxious hearts, and visit us with your presence today. Amen.

moment of silent adoration



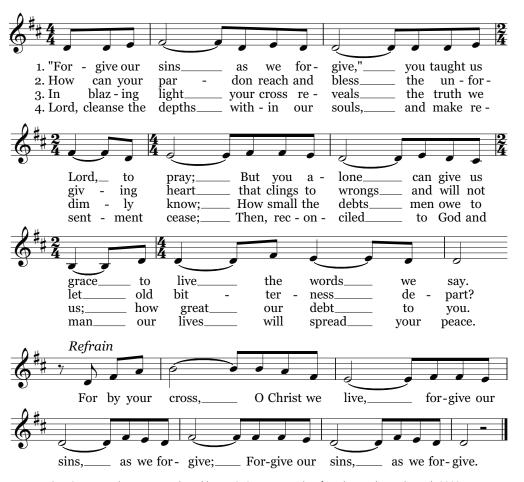
Confession of Sin

from Ephesians 4

Leader:

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

All: Loving God, forgive us the hardhearted bitterness we harbor against others, our self-righteous wrath, and the grudges we hold close. In your mercy, help us to be kind and to forgive others as you have forgiven us.



Forgive Our Sins, Words, Rosamond Herklots, 1969; Music and Refrain by Paul van der Bijl, 2023

Silent time to pray and confess

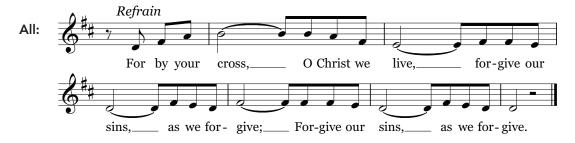
Assurance of Pardon

from Ephesians 1

Leader:

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

Sing to Assure



Lessons from the Word

read by Alyssa and Brent Blankenship ①, Mike FisherDubois ②

Gospel Lesson - Matthew 28.16-20, p.835 New Testament Lesson - 2 Corinthians 13.11-14, p.971

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God



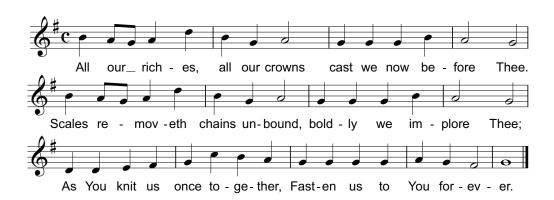
Come O Spirit, Words and Music, Isaac Wardell, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, 2008

The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker Who Am I?, Exodus 3:1–12, p.46

¹ Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."



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 Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

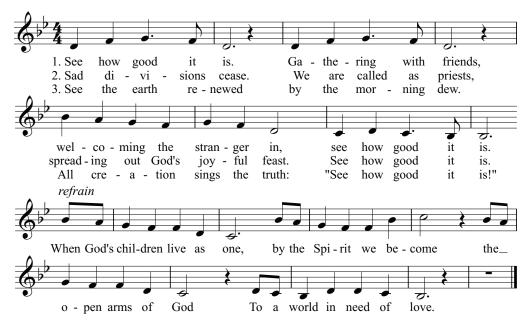
All: We lift them to the Lord.

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.



See How Good It Is, from Psalm 133, by Wendell Kimbrough, Episcopal Church of The Incarnation, Dallas, TX; and Sandra McCracken, 2021

Lenten Great Thanksgiving Adapted from United Methodist Church Book of Worship, 1992

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: It is truly right to give you thanks and praise.

Leader: We remember during our journey through Lent that from the dust of the earth you

formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away from you our love failed, but your love remained steadfast.

All: For forty days and forty nights rain fell upon the earth,

Leader: and you saved Noah and his family on the ark and made covenant with every living

creature on earth.

All: For forty days and forty nights you spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai,

Leader: and gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.

All: For forty days and forty nights your prophet Elijah fled in fear to Mount Horeb,

Leader: for we killed your prophets and forsook your covenant but still you remained faithful

to us.

All: For forty days and forty nights your Son Jesus Christ fasted and was tempted in

the wilderness.

Leader: and by his sufering, death and resurrection you delievered us from slavery to sin and

death and made with us the new covenant by water and the Spirit.

All: For forty days and forty nights we remember Christ's sacrifice.

Leader: Lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,

and with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,

may we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

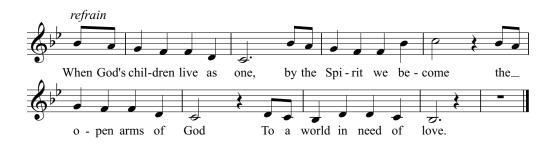
All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

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. Gluten free bread is available in a separate dish.

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

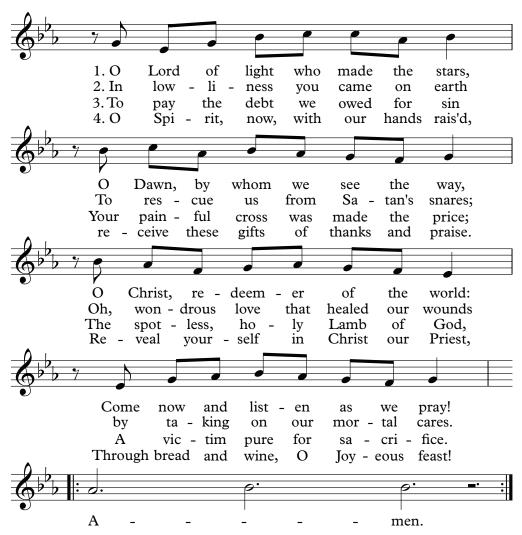
Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the 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:



O Lord of Light, Words: Latin chant, 9th cent., Music: Sarum Plainsong, mode IV, Chorus by Paul van der Bijl, 2017

Respond to the Table

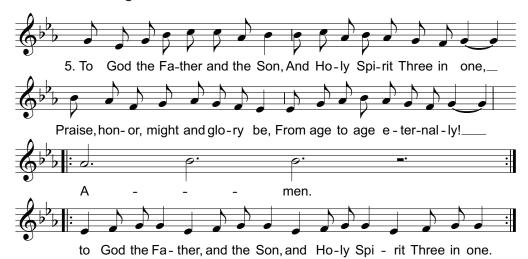
Leader:

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.

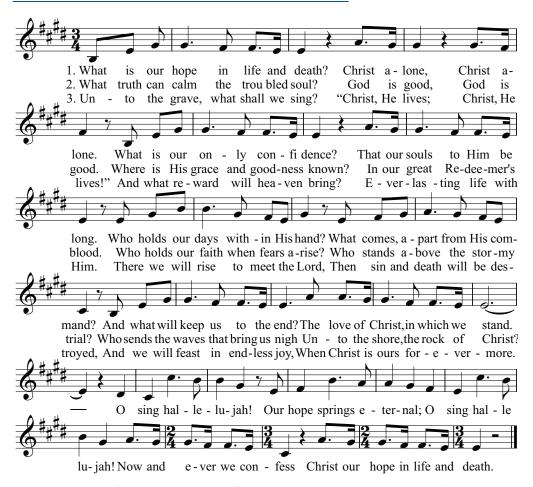


The Work of the People

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.



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

Leader: Benediction

Romans 15:5–7 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 and Library
- Nursery: Ages 0-4 (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: PreK-8th Grade (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: High School (Youth Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: In Abundance and Need (Fellowship Hall, Ed Building)

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Melissa Norton, Jay and Sandra Zimmerman (9:00); Rachel Salsedo, Amy and Brad

Lewis (11:15)

Ushers: Leslie Lucas, Mark Scheerhorn (9:00); Andrew Dykstra, Michael Bergstrom (11:15)

Musicians: Paul David Young, electric guitar, vocals; Paul van der Bijl, guitar vocals; Adèle-Marie Buis, oboe;

Cassidy Miller, vocals; Emma Sowinski, upright bass; 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

In Abundance and In Need: How Money Forms Us. 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 the final week of this class in the Fellowship Hall which will focus on giving.

From Sunday to Monday: How do theology and worship shape our calling and work? Together we will explore the theme of work through scripture, liturgy, and our experiences. We will have a candid discussion on when our experiences may fall short of our ideals and the tensions of aligning our calling to our paid labor, our relationships and communities, the need for financial security, and our relationships with colleagues at work. This five-week class meets in the Library and is taught by Andy Bilhorn beginning on February 25.

God Among Us: The incarnation teaches us that God, in the person of Jesus, became human and lived among his people. How does this deep theological truth inform the way we live as Christians? Join us for this five-week class during Lent as we think about the richness of the incarnation and the way it shapes our faith. Taught by Larissa Bossemeyer, Daniel Longyne and Steve Lehmann, each week will focus on a different area where we encounter the incarnation such as in the church calendar, in community and in the sacraments. Class will meet in the Conference Room beginning February 25.

Ezra-Nehemiah: 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 and Civilizations, University of Chicago) will teach this class beginning on February 25 in the All Saints Room.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Newcomers Gathering: Join us tonight 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, please talk to Larissa Bossemeyer or Pastor Dan after the service.

Spring Social: Mark your calendars for the evening of March 10 for an all-church event at Covenant. We'll have a dinner together featuring a chili cook-off and a night of bingo and games with prizes. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks. Interested in competing in the chili cook-off or volunteering at this event? Contact Larissa Bossemeyer (lbossemeyer@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).

Pickleball at Covenant: Join others from Covenant for pickleball in the gym on some Saturdays from 9 to 11 am. All are welcome to join; instructors will be available if you're new to the sport. Sign up on our website (covenantchicago.org/pickleball/) for upcoming dates. Questions? Contact Ian Cull (iancull74@gmail.com).

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.

Girls Night: Join women from Covenant on Saturday, February 24th at 7pm for snacks and drinks at a home in Roscoe Village. You can sign up or find additional details at the Welcome Table or on our website: https://covenantchicago.org/events/girls-night-in/.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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 Lynda Adamson (LAdamson@covenantchicago. org).

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.

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/.

NEWS AND UPDATES

Parents of Diverse Learners. If you have a child with a disability taking part in our children's ministry, we would like to try and find ways to meet your child's unique needs. One of our deacons, Kylene Young, has years of experience as a special education teacher and can work with you and our volunteers to tailor a plan. If you're interested in learning more, contact Ian (ian@covenantchicago.org) or Kylene (Kyleneyoung@gmail.com).

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.

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).



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	of
the offering boxes at the back of the church.	

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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

