

A Prayer for the Past

ALL sights and sounds of day and year, All groups and forms, each leaf and gem, Are thine, O God, nor will I fear To talk to Thee of them.

Too great Thy heart is to despise, Whose day girds centuries about; From things which we name small, Thine eyes See great things looking out.

Therefore the prayerful song I sing May come to Thee in ordered words: Though lowly born, it needs not cling In terror to its chords.

I think that nothing made is lost; That not a moon has ever shone, That not a cloud my eyes hath crossed But to my soul is gone.

That all the lost years garnered lie In this Thy casket, my dim soul; And Thou wilt, once, the key apply, And show the shining whole.

But were they dead in me, they live
In Thee, Whose Parable is—Time,
And Worlds, and Forms—all things that give
Me thoughts, and this my rime.

Father, in joy our knees we bow: This earth is not a place of tombs: We are but in the nursery now; They in the upper rooms.

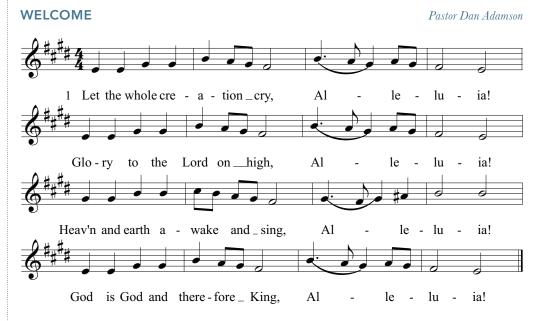
~ George Macdonalad

3rd Sunday of Lent Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Welcome to Covenant

Children's programming is available during both services on the lower level, see page 14 for details. Large Print orders of worship and devices to improve hearing are available in the back of the sanctuary.

GOD GATHERS US TO WORSHIP



Let the Whole Creation Cry, Words: Stopford Brooke, 1881. Music: Robert Williams, 1817.

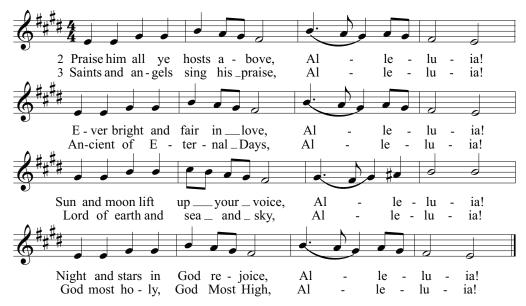
CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 89

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

All: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

Leader: You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.

All: The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them.



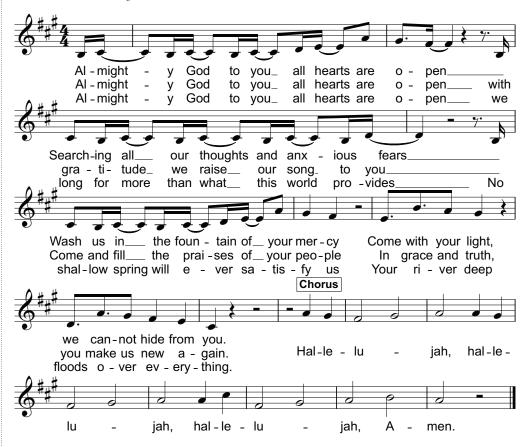
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PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

Leader: O God, our Maker, the heavens and the earth are yours. Your creation proclaims your majesty. In your infinite wisdom you are with us when we gather as your children and for this we thank you and adore you.

All: By your Spirit, open our eyes to the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ.

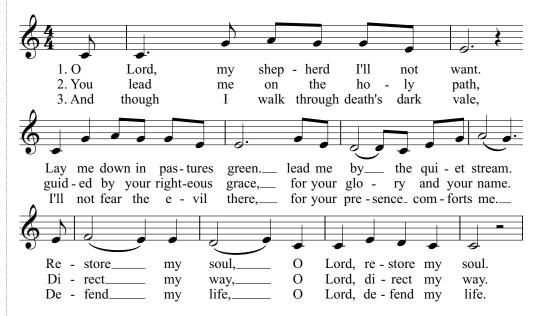
silent moment of adoration



Allmighty God, Words and Music, Sandra McCracken, St. Mary of Bethany Parish, Nashville TN, 2015. GOD FORGIVES AND CLEANSES US Leader: He was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

All: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

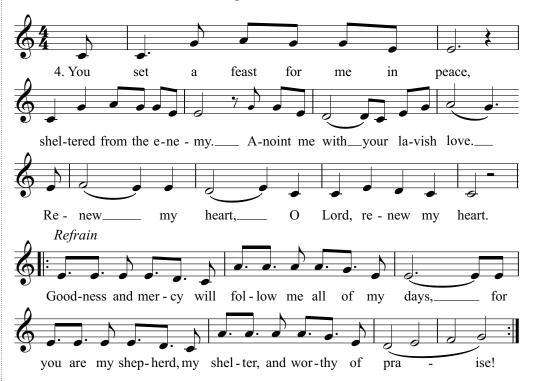
SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION



Psalm 23, Paul van der Bijl, 2022

Leader: He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

All: By his wounds we have been healed. For we were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.

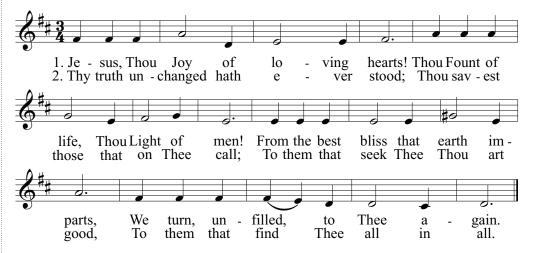


Gospel Lesson - John 6.29-35, p.891New Testament Lesson - Philippians 2.12-16, p.981

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

All: Thanks be to God!



Jesus Thou Joy of Loving Hearts, Words: Bernard of Clairvaux, 1150; Music: Henry Baker, 1854

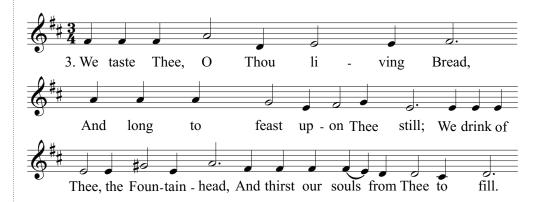
THE WORD Pastor Aaron Baker

Bread from Heaven, Exodus 16:1–12, p.58

¹ They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. ² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³ and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" ⁸ And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD."

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling." ¹⁰ And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the LORD said to Moses, ¹² "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.""



COME WITH PEACE

Leader: The Lord be with you All: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up 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.

COME WITH GENEROSITY

We come to the Table with a generous heart and give back to God a portion of what he's already given us. Offer your resources back to God in support of the work of the church by placing your offering in the boxes on the back wall. You can also give online at covenantchicago.org/give, use the QR code on page 16, or text a donation amount to 84321.



At The Lamb's High Feast, Words: Ad regias Agni dapes; Latin, 4th c, Music Paul van der Bijl, 2023

GOD COMMUNES WITH US

God is the host of this family meal. We come to his table unified in peace and offer a communal prayer of deep gratitude for all that He has done through his Son.

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.

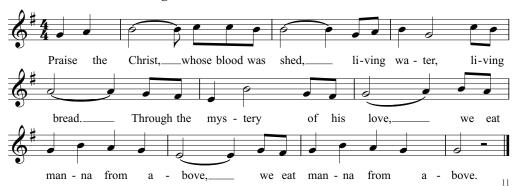
All: For forty days and forty nights your Son Jesus Christ fasted and was tempted in the wilderness,

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 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.



COME TO THE TABLE

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.

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

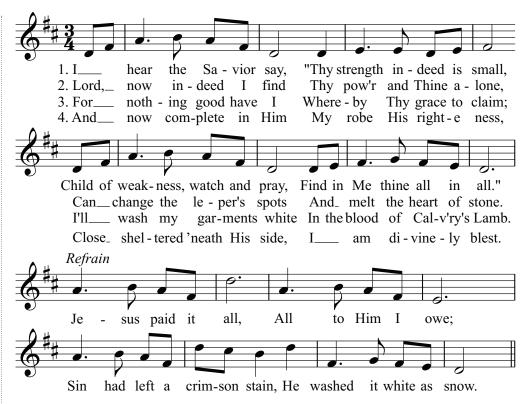
Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the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



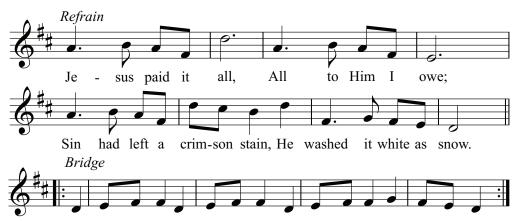
Jesus Paid it All, Words: Elvina M. Hall, 1865; Music: John T. Grape 1868, Bridge, Kristian Stanfill, Passion City Church, Atlanta, GA., 2012

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.



O praise the One who paid my debt and rais'd this life up from the dead.

IN COMMUNITY Pastor Dan Adamson

GOD SENDS US Announcements, events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks

WITH JOY



We Labor Unto Glory, Words and Music, Craig Harris, Plum Creek Church, Castle Rock, CO., 2017

BENEDICTION Pastor Aaron Baker

WELCOME TO COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TODAY AT COVENANT

1st Service, 9:00am

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: God Among Us (Conference Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: From Sunday to Monday (Library, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Ezra-Nehemiah (All Saints Room, Ed Building)

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Linda Gehrs, Jennie and Ryan Von Drehle (9:00); Hyunseob Kim, Phil Koerner, Tess FisherDubois (11:15)

Ushers: Chuck Michalek, Matthew Clay (9:00); Jon Skinner (11:15)

Musicians: Paul David Young, electric guitar, vocals; Paul van der Bijl, guitar vocals; Mike Middleton, bass, vocals; Cassidy Miller, vocals; Drew Goodwin, viola; 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

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.

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.

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 in the All Saints Room.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Spring Social: Mark your calendars for March 10 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm for an all-church event at Covenant. We'll have a dinner together featuring a chili cook-off and a night of bingo and Name That Tune with prizes. 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.

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).

Common Ground Volunteers: Covenant is looking for additional volunteers to help with coffee and snacks for Common Ground. Volunteers help with either setup (during the 9:00 am service) or clean up (during the 11:15 service), as well as helping during Common Ground to replenish coffee as needed. Most volunteers serve once a month. If you'd be interested, please contact Larissa Bossemeyer (lbossemeyer@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 (Imgehrs@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.

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.

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).

Sermon Text Next Week: 1 Samuel 26

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:
rnone:
☐ ↑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

