

A Throne Unshaken

February 28, 2021
Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago
2nd Sunday of Lent



Welcome

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.

Leader: In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
All: and the heights of the hills are his also.

Leader: The sea is his, for he made it,
All: and his hands have molded the dry land.

1. Now with joy - ful ex - ul - ta - tion let us sing to God our
2. For how great a God, and glo - rious, is the Lord of whom we
praise; to the Rock of our sal - va - tion loud ho - san - nas let us
sing; o - ver i - dol gods vic - to - rious, great is he, our God and
raise. Thank - ful trib - ute glad - ly bring - ing, let us
King. In his hand are earth's deep plac - es, al - so
come be - fore him now, and, with psalms his prais - es
his are all the hills; his the sea whose bounds he
sing - ing, joy - ful in his pres - ence bow.
trac - es, his the land his boun - ty fills.

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.



To the Lord, such might re - veal - ing, let us come with rev - erence
meet, and, be - fore our Mak - er kneel - ing, let us wor - ship at his
feet. He is our own God who leads us, we the
peo - ple of his care; with a shep - herd's hand he
feeds us as his flock in pas - tures fair.

Lenten Confession of Sin, from *Philippians 4:4-7*

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

1. Your will be done, my God and fa - ther As in Hea - ven, so on
2. How in that gar - den he per - sis - ted I may ne - ver ful - ly
earth. My heart is drawn to self ex - al - ting, help me seek Your king - dom
know. The fear - ful weight of true o - be - dience it was held by him a -
first. As Je - sus walked, so I shall walk Held by Your
lone. What won - drous faith, to bear that cross To bear my
same un - chang - ing love. Be still my soul. Oh, lift your voice and pray:
sin, what won - drous love My hope was sure When there my Sa - vior prayed:
Fa - ther not my will but Yours be done.

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

Assurance of Pardon, from *Philippians 4:4-7*

Leader: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

All: Let us rejoice in the Lord always!

3. When I am lost, when I am bro - ken In the night of fear and
doubt. Still I will trust in my good Fa - ther Yes, to one great King I
bow! As Je - sus rose, so I shall rise In ran-somed
glo - ry at the throne. My heart re - stored With all your saints I sing:
Fa - ther not my will but Yours be done.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 3/4 time. It consists of five lines of music. The first line begins with a treble clef, a 3/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence consisting of a quarter note followed by two quarter rests.

Lessons from the Word

Gospel Lesson -

Luke 4:1-8

New Testament Lesson -

Romans 12:14-19

Reader: The Word of the Lord
All: **Thanks be to God**

The Word

Pastor Dan Adamson

May the Lord Judge, 1 Samuel 24

When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed." So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.' See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."

As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands. For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. Swear to me therefore by the LORD that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house." And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Celebrate the Table: The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

**All: We remember as we begin our journey through Lent
that you brought all things into being and called them good.
From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.**

Leader: 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 suffering, death and resurrection you delivered 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.**



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - - ly God, Ho - ly and might - ty,". The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly im - mor - tal one, Have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us."

Distribute the Bread & Cup

Please note that we serve both red wine and white grape juice.
All wafers are gluten free and available in a single serve cup.

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.

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.**



4. As we go forth, our God and Fa - ther Lead us dai - ly in the
fight. That all the world might see Your glo - ry and YourName be lif - ted
high. And in this Name we o - ver - come For You shall
see us safe - ly home Now as your church We lift our voice and pray:
Fa - ther not my will but Yours be done.

News & Announcements

Announcements in our community

Let Us Pray for You. Covenant's staff meets remotely to pray for the congregation throughout the week. We would be honored to pray for you. Please send your prayer requests to Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org) who will share them with the staff.

Lenten Prayer Guide: Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 17, and continues through the Saturday before Easter, Holy Saturday. This year, we invite you to join us in praying through the Daily Prayer Project's Lenten Guide, which includes a liturgy for morning and evening prayer. You can view it or download it on our website (<https://covenantchicago.org/lenet>). We'll have copies available in the back of the sanctuary as well.

Jesus Through Her Eyes: Join Larissa Bossemeyer and Olivia Stewart Lester (professor of New Testament at Loyola University) as they have conversations about Jesus' interactions with women in the Gospels. Recorded conversations are released on Wednesdays with bi-weekly discussions beginning this Sunday, February 28 at 12:30 pm. Look for more details on our event page: <https://covenantchicago.org/events/jesus-through-her-eyes/>. The first two weeks are available now.

Women's Lenten Series: As we journey toward Easter, we will reflect on how we currently encounter Jesus and in what ways he is asking us to follow him. We will meet virtually on Thursdays 3/11 & 3/25 from 7:30-9:00PM. The 11th will be a testimony and the 25th will be a Easter social. An invitation was sent via email. Email women@covenantchicago.org if you did not receive the email and want to be added to the mailing list.

March Mercy Bin: For the month of March, Covenant is collecting donations to support Breakthrough Urban Ministries as they respond to the Covid pandemic in East Garfield Park. The current needs for the Fresh Market food pantry are cereal, mac and cheese, pasta, rice, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, deodorant, and disposable masks. Current needs for the shelters and supportive housing programs are cleaning products, toilet paper, new XL twin bed sheets, disposable face masks, hand soap, and hand sanitizer. Donations will be collected in the Mercy Bin in the back of the Narthex throughout the month. Questions? Contact Shane Rector (shane.rector13@gmail.com).

Do you need help? The pandemic has impacted people in many different ways. If you are experiencing any kind of hardship and would like some help, please contact our deacons (diaconate@covenantchicago.org). Your email will go directly to the deacons, and they'll treat it with confidence. If you're able, now is a great time to contribute to the Deacons Fund to meet the needs of others in our congregation.

Children's Ministry Transition: We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Sherri Bredenberg who has served our families as the Director of Children's Ministry for the last four years. Starting in March, Nicole Podkulski will serve as Interim Director of Children's Ministry. Nicole has worked at Covenant for many years and knows our children and families well. You can reach her at npodkulski@covenantchicago.org. If you have any questions about the transition, please contact Pastor David Salsedo (dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org).

Chorus

We will feast in the House of Zi - on. We will sing with our
 hearts re-stored. "He has done great things," we will say to - ge - ther.

Verses

We will feast and weep no more. 1. We will not be burned by the
 2. In the dark of night, be-fore the
 3. Ev - ery vow we've bro - ken and be-

fire. He is the LORD our God. We are not con-
 dawn, my soul, be not a - fraid. For the pro-mised
 trayed. You are the Faith - ful one. And_ from the

sumed by the flood. Up-held, pro-tec - ted, ga - thered up.
 morn - ing, oh, how long? Oh, God of Ja - cob, be my strength.
 gar - den to the grave, bind us to - ge - ther, bring sha - lom.

We Will Feast in The House of Zion, Sandra McCracken, 2015, Westside Anglican Fellowship, Nashville, TN.

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.

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Session

Aaron Baker (Moderator), Dan Adamson, David Dillon, Kevin Jones, Brad Lewis, Steve Lehmann, David Salsedo, Ryan Von Drehle. *Please direct correspondence for the Session to session@covenantchicago.org.*

Diaconate

Rich Lane, Andrew Dykstra, Jonathan Ellison, Phil Koerner, Paul Leo, Joel Miller, Shane Rector, Jenny Smith, Deb Van Der Molen, Matt Ver Steeg

Treasurer: Ben Meyer

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

Covenant Life

worship | grow and learn | serve

We encourage everyone to get connected to the life of the church in these three ways:

Worship Together. We believe that humans are worshiping beings, made for communion with the Triune God, and that ordering our common worship around the Gospel on Sunday has a profound, formative effect on every part of our lives. The rhythm of Sunday worship is the rhythm of the whole Christian life and it stands counter to lots of other rhythms that clamor for our attention and allegiance in this world. Ordering ourselves together around it strengthens our appetites, imaginations and abilities to live as followers of Jesus wherever we find ourselves. Come to church on Sunday!

Grow and Learn Together. We believe that learning about our faith and growing together in it are necessary for flourishing in the Christian life. The goal of Christian learning is to form us into human beings who are fully swept up into the work God is doing in his world. Learning is more than simply knowing; it is the internalization of truth that leads to mature thinking and acting.

We'd like for everyone to take two core classes while you're here: the Covenant Life Class, an introduction to Christianity and to our church, and The Story of Scripture, which traces themes through Scripture and applies them to our everyday lives. After those classes, consider joining a more intimate Discipleship Cohort that meets with a mentor. For information about these opportunities, contact Pastor David Salsedo (dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org).

We'd like for everyone to consider joining a small group which meets together regularly to build meaningful relationships and live out the Christian life together. They're one of the most important ways of getting care and being connected at Covenant. To find out more about small groups, or to join the small group that meets at church on Wednesdays at 6.30pm, contact Pastor Dan Adamson (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

Serve Together. We believe the natural outcome of receiving and experiencing grace is to be propelled outward into mission and service. Every one of us has been given gifts to use for the good of our common life and for the good of the broken world around us. We're called to give of ourselves because we're part of the story of God's reconciliation of all things. Every week there are numerous opportunities to serve at Covenant and elsewhere listed in the order of worship. We encourage everyone to regularly use their gifts in service. To learn more about opportunities to serve, contact Pastor Dan Adamson (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).



*a church, a city,
and a world
continually made new
by the grace of Christ*

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