

Prayer

Prayer the Churches banquet, Angels age, Gods breath in man returning to his birth, The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage, The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth;

Engine against th' Almightie, sinner's towre, Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear, The six daies world-transposing in an houre, A kinde of tune, which all things heare and fear;

Softnesse, and peace, and joy, and love, and blisse, Exalted Manna, gladnesse of the best, Heaven in ordinarie, man well drest, The milkie way, the bird of Paradise,

Church-bels beyond the stars heard, the souls bloud, The land of spices, something understood.

 \sim George Herbert

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.

WELCOME Pastor Aaron Baker

GOD GATHERS US TO WORSHIP

Prepare for worship

Dear God, 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.

We come to worship you today. We come to sing, pray, and listen. You always hear us. Help us to hear you. Amen.



Leader: The LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

All: And we will return to you, Lord and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy will be upon our heads; we will obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.



Psalm 34, Words by Isaac Watts, 1720, Music based on a Sacred Harp tune

PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

silent moment of adoration

O God, we magnify your name and we adore you for you comfort us in our waste places and make our wilderness into the garden of Eden.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit.

All: Open our eyes to the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ.



We ex-alt You: Hal-le-lu-jah. We ex-alt You: Hal-le-lu

All the Poor and Powerless, Words and Music by David Leonard and Leslie Jordan, 2011

jah.

Leader: We plead: Repair the brokenness we share and hear this lament and prayer:

All: How long, O LORD? Will you forget us forever? How long will you hide your face from our suffering brothers and sisters? How long must we wrestle with our thoughts and every day have sorrow in our heart?

Leader: Have mercy on us and those who suffer, O God.

All: See our tears and hear our cries. Lead us all through this valley of death's shadow and renew in us the hope, peace and joy of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

silent moment to lament

GOD

AND

US

HEARS, FORGIVES

CLEANSES



Grace Will Prevail, by Kirk Sauers and Paul Ranheim, First Presbyterian, Augusta, GA, 2022 CONFESSION OF SIN from James 4

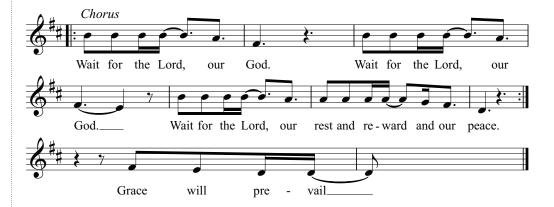
Leader: God gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

silent moment 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.



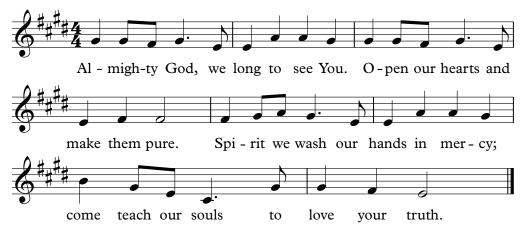
LESSONS FROM THE WORD

Gospel Lesson - Luke 22:39-46, p.882 New Testament Lesson - Romans 8:22-25, p.944

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

All: Thanks be to God.



Psalm 24, Word and Music, Wendell Kimbrough, Anglican Church of the Apostles, Fairhope, AL., 2015

THE WORD Rev. Ron May

Waiting in the Wilderness, 1 Samuel 26:13–17, 21–25, p.249

¹³ Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. ¹⁴ And David called to the army, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Will you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner answered, "Who are you who calls to the king?" ¹⁵ And David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? Who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not kept watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy the king your lord. ¹⁶ This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not kept watch over your lord, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is and the jar of water that was at his head."

- ¹⁷ Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king."
- ²¹ Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Behold, I have acted foolishly, and have made a great mistake." ²² And David answered and said, "Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. ²³ The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the LORD gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the LORD's anointed. ²⁴ Behold, as your life was precious this day in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the LORD, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation." ²⁵ Then Saul said to David, "Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

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

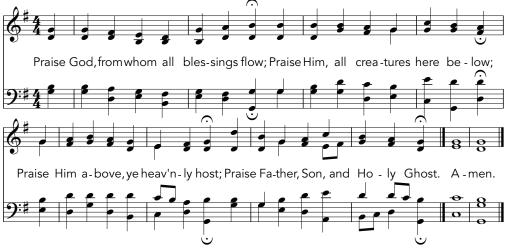
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

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.



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

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.

COME WITH 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.



And we will sing out: Hal-le-lu-jah. We will cry out: Hal-le-lu-jah.



We ex-alt You: Hal-le-lu-jah. We ex-alt You: Hal-le-lu - jah.

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:



Until He Comes Again by Sandra McCracken, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, 2022

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.



Based on the Nicene Creed, by Paul van der Bijl & Dave Jarvis, 2023, a song in triplets to exalt the Trinity. IN COMMUNITY Pastor Aaron Baker

Announcements, events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks

GOD SENDS US

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. Romans 12:4–6

WITH JOY



The Morning Trumpet, Words: John Leland, 1793; Music from the Sacred Harp, 1844; addl. text, vdB, 2016

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ron May

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 classrooms
- 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, Lower Level)

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Fernando Kim, Patrick Fisher, Anna Harvey (9:00); Mark and Ranya Faasse, Andrew Dykstra (11:15)

Ushers: Mark Scheerhorn, Ryan von Drehle (9:00); Christie Kay, David Hofman (11:15)

Musicians: Paul David Young, electric guitar, vocals; Paul van der Bijl, guitar vocals; David Dillon, bass, vocals; Erica Norman, vocals; Dave Jarvis, saxaphone; Adriane Fink, piano; 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: Join us on 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@covenantchicago.org).



Quartet for the End of Time: Join us on Palm Sunday, March 24 at 7pm for a performance of the 20th century masterpiece by Olivier Messiaen, The Quartet for the End of Time. It was written and performed the first time in a German prison camp on January 15, 1941. According to Messiaen, the piece was a musical extension of Revelation 10 where the 7th angel delcared that "time would be no longer." Its stark beauty and deep spiritual themes are full of hope and joy and it is a beautiful way to enter Holy Week.

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.

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).

Host a Student for Easter: In partnership with Bridges International, an international student ministry at IIT, Covenant is inviting individuals and families to host students for a meal over Easter weekend. You could invite them to attend our Good Friday service or join you on Easter. If you would be interested in inviting two or more students for this holiday weekend, you can learn more and sign up online at https://friends-for-dinner.com/hosts/. Please register by Sunday, March 17.



ONE CITY. ONE MISSION.

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).

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.

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.

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 Kings 19:1-18



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