



the last days

March 19 2023 | 4th Sunday of Lent

Nature trembled and said with astonishment:

What new mystery is this?

The Judge is judged and remains silent;

the Invisible One is seen and does not hide himself;

the Incomprehensible One is comprehended and does not resist;

the Unmeasurable One is measured and does not struggle;

the One beyond suffering suffers and does not avenge himself;

the Immortal One dies and does not refuse death.

What new mystery is this?

~ Second-century bishop Melito of Sardis

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

1. Re - joice, the Lord is King: Your Lord and King a - dore!
2. Je - sus, the Sa - vior, reigns, The God of truth and love;
3. His king - dom can - not fail, He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
4. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come

Re - joice, give thanks and sing, And tri - umph e - ver - more. Lift
When He has purged our stains, He took his seat a - bove; Lift
The keys of death and hell Are to our Je - sus giv'n: Lift
to ga - ther all his saints to their e - ter - nal home: Lift

up your heart, Lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joice!
up your heart, Lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joice!
up your heart, Lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joice!
up your heart, Lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Rejoice the Lord is King, Words: Charles Wesley, 1746; Music, John Darwall, 1770

from Psalm 97

Leader: The Lord is King, let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!
Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

**All: The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.
For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.**

Leader: Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

**All sing: Rejoice, the Lord is King:
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: *Holy Father, we rejoice with all the earth in your righteousness and justice. You are greater than all the idols and gods that distract our attention from you.*

silent moment of meditation and adoration

Leader: *Father, By the power of your Holy Spirit and through your Son, Jesus Christ,*
All: open our eyes and hearts to your glory today. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of you calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all in all. - Ephesians 4:4-6

Sing to Prepare, Holy Baptism

All: 

De - scend, O Spi-rit, purg-ing flame,____ brand us this day with Je-sus'
De - scend, O Spi-rit, as a dove,____ clothe us this day in Je-sus'
De - scend, O Spi-rit, be our guide,____ the voice of God, a mighty
name!____ Con-firm our faith, con-sume our doubt;____ Sign us as
love.____ Mark us as chil-dren of the King;____ Then send us
tide.____ Con-vict our sin, com-pel our lives;____ Spi-rit, keep
Christ's, with-in, with- out, Sign us as Christ's with-in with- out._
forth, in Je sus' name, Then send us forth in Je-sus' name.
us and draw us nigh, Spi - rit, keep us and draw us nigh.

Devon Amedem Spencer

Prayer of Congregational Blessing:

All: Merciful God, you call us by name and promise to each of us your constant love. We thank you for receiving your servant **Devon** by baptism. Deepen her understanding of the gospel, strengthen her commitment to follow the way of Christ, and keep her in the faith and communion of your church. Increase her compassion for others, send her into the world in witness to your love, and bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

All Sing: "Descend, O Spirit purging flame..."

Confession of Sin

Leader: *And Jesus said: "Come to me, all who are weary and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30*

All: Gracious God,
we are weary and our sins and anxieties are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
and our tendency to find rest in anything but your mercy and grace.
Grant us rest for our souls.

Sing to Confess



Come wear - y saints though tired and weak, hide a - way in the
Come wan - dering souls and find your home, hide a - way in the
Come guilt - y ones weighed down with sin, hide a - way in the



love of Je - sus. Your strength will re - turn by His
love of Je - sus. He of - fers the rest that you
love of Je - sus. The free - dom you long for is



qui - et streams, hide a - way in the love of Je - sus.
yearn to know, hide a - way in the love of Je - sus.
found in Him, hide a - way in the love of Je - sus.

*Hide Away in the Love of Jesus, Words and Music by Steve and Vikki Cook, Sovereign Grace Church
Louisville, KY 2008*

Silent time to pray and confess

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:3-4*

Sing to Assure



Come hope-ful hearts free from des-pair, hide a-way in the



love of Je - sus. For ten thou-sand joys a -



wait you there, hide a-way in the love of Je - sus.

Lessons from the Word

read by Cora Passis ①, Linda and Steve Smith ②

Old Testament Lesson -

Deuteronomy 6:4-7, p.1581

New Testament Lesson -

Romans 13:8-10, p.948

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

All sing:



Come, oh Spi - rit, com-fort true; help us, in - ter - ced - ing
All our know-ledge, all our sight lies in dark-ness shroud - ed.
All our rich - es, all our crowns cast we now be - fore Thee.

Come and ev' - ry heart re - new; breath of God pro - ceed - ing.
All our la - bors wrought in strife hath our judg-ment cloud - ed.
Scales re - mov - eth chains un-bound, bold - ly we im - plore Thee;

You a - lone, Oh God, can change us, Spir - it now work good with - in us.
Oh con-sume our wrongde - si - res, Ho - ly Ghost our souls in - spi - re.
As You knit us once to - ge - ther, Fast-en us to You for - ev - er.

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

The Word

Pastor David Salsedo

The Supreme Commandment, Mark 12:28-34, p.848

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³² And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. ³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Notes:

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here be low;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men.

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

Lenten Great Thanksgiving

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: 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.

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

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.



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:



1. Come, you sin - ners, poor and nee - dy, Weak and woun - ded, sick and sore;
2. Come, you thir - sty, come and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
3. Come, you wea - ry, hea - vy - la - den, Lost and ru - ined by the fall;
4. Let not cons - cience make you lin - ger, Nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;
5. Come, you sin - ners, pure and ho - ly, ga - ther at this feast with God.



Je - sus read - y stands to save you, Full of pi - ty, love and pow'r.
True be - lief and true re - pen - tance, Ev' - ry grace that brings you nigh.
If you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, You will ne - ver come at all.
All the fit - ness He re - qui - reth Is to feel your need of Him.
Stand be - fore our Sav - ior bold - ly, cleans'd for - gi - ven by his blood.

Refrain



1. I will a - rise, go to Je - sus, I will find rest for my soul.
2. I will a - rise, go to Je - sus, in his em - brace, I'm made whole.

Come Ye Sinners, Words: Joseph Hart, 1759. Music: William Walker, 1835, Fetter Lane Moravian Church, London, UK

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.



1. I will a - rise, go to Je - sus,_____ I will find rest for my soul.
2. I will a - rise, go to Je - sus,_____ in his em - brace, I'm made whole.

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 prayer

Led by Kara Shroyer

A prayer for our community

Leader: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our Prayer

A prayer for our city

Leader: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our Prayer

A prayer for our world

Leader: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our Prayer



Our Fa- ther, who in hea-ven be, All hal-low-ed praise we sing to
Give us th-is day our dai-ly bread. For give our__ debt-ors and our
All praise to__ Thee, the God of Light; All Praise to__ Christ, the glo-rious
Thee. And as we__ hail your king-dom come, We
debt. And from temp-ta-tion lead the way. Guard
Son; And to the__ Sp-rit, Lord of might, Now,
al- so__ pray your will be done. Your will be
us from__ ev-il till the day, Your king-dom
and e-ter-nal a-ges run. All praise to
done Your will be done, Your will be done, Your will be done.
come, Your king-dom come, Your king-dom come, Your king-dom come.
Thee, All praise to Thee, All praise to Thee, All praise to Thee.

The Lord's Prayer, Words and Music, Paul van der Bijl, 2012, based on the Lord's Prayer, verse 3 based on a Latin hymn

in community

Events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks.

Go With Joy

1. O God of love, our strength and guide through all the
2. And when the days of sor - row come, grant us the
3. Good Shep-herd still, in all life's storms, when clouds and
4. Noth - ing on earth, in life or death, not depths be -
5. Now through our Fa - ther's glo - rious reign; In Christ, in -

chan - ges of this life, we come to you with griefs and
faith to trust your love, to see be - yond our fal - ling
dark - ness hide our way, your love is with us, though un -
low, nor heights a - bove, can hide us from your watch - ful
car - nate Word of Life; and by the Spi - rit's dwel - ling

joys, in times of peace and times of strife.
tears and glimpse the light of heav'n a - bove.
seen, and ne - ver fails by night or day.
eye, nor se - par - ate us from your love.
grace, we rest in your e - ter - nal light.

O God of Love, by Irene Jarvis and Kate Williams, Old St. Mary's Catholic Church, Chicago, 2022

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

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level
- Children's Worship: preK-5th Grade, lower level

2nd service, 11:15am

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, 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: For Forty Days and Forty Nights (Conference Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Imagining Our Neighbor (Library, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Covenant Life Class (All Saints Room, Lower Level)
- **Coffee and snacks available in all classrooms and the Fellowship Hall**

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Fernando Kim, Larissa Bossemeyer, Anna Harvey (9:00); James Leach, Phil Koerner, Shawn Bandel (11:15)

Ushers: Jonathan Clarke, Matt Ver Steeg (9:00); James Leach, Jon Skinner (11:15)

Welcome Table: Peggy Adamson (9:00); Phil Koerner (11:15)

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.

Holy Week Schedule:

April 6, Maundy Thursday: Joint service with our sister church, The Redemption Church, 7:30pm.

April 7, Good Friday: The sanctuary will be open for prayer and self-guided meditation from 11am - 3pm and a guided meditation on the Stations of the Cross at 12pm.

April 7, Good Friday: Tenebrae Service, 7pm.

April 9, Easter Sunday: Services at 9:00am and 11:15am. Join us for coffee and refreshments in the Education Building between services.

Covenant Life Class: This class is a requirement for those who wish to become members, but it's equally valuable for those who are interested in learning more about the church and the things we care about most, starting with the gospel. The class will meet at 10:15am in the All Saints Room.

For Forty Days and Forty Nights: The season of Lent started on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter. Join us for this class that will reflect on the themes of fasting, repentance and death and talk about the history and practices of Lent in the church broadly and at Covenant. Class meets in the Conference Room during Common Ground and is taught by Larissa Bossemeyer.

Imagining Our Neighbor: Art and Empathy. The stories we encounter in film, music and literature invite us to imagine experiences and emotions that we may not have firsthand experiences of. How does art help us to be more empathetic people? In what ways do stories help us to love our neighbors? Join us for this four-week class during Common Ground in the Library as we look at how different media invite us into seeing and loving the people around us.

POSTPONED - Line Dance and Chili Cook-Off: Our line dance and chili cook-off scheduled for the end of the month has been postponed. We'll keep you posted when we have an updated date.



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.

Congregational Meeting: We'll have a congregational meeting in the gym on April 2 during Common Ground at 10:15 am. We'll talk about the 2023-24 budget, the Accessibility project that was started last year, and some other initiatives and partnerships that we've been able to build over the last year. Nurseries and children's Sunday School will be available.

Mentoring at Pulaski School: This spring we are launching a partnership with our neighborhood CPS school, Pulaski International School of Chicago. We are looking for 4-6 adults who would be willing to serve in our pilot program as mentors to 6th through 8th grade students in the month of May. There will be a training session in April to equip the mentors. After that, the time commitment is one day a week from 4-5 pm throughout the month of May. If you are interested or just want to learn more, please reach out to Martha Metcalfe at martha.metcalfe@gmail.com by March 27.

Men's Retreat: Join other men from Covenant for our annual retreat on April 28-30. Whether you are brand new to Covenant or a church founder, this will be an opportunity to retreat from the daily grind and start or strengthen relationships. Register and learn more at covenantchicago.org/events/mens-retreat/.

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 Liturgy of the Ordinary by Tish Harrison Warren. 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.



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

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.



Giving QR Code

Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker

Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org

David Salsedo

Associate Pastor, dsalsedo@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, 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

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*

2012 W. Dickens
Chicago, IL 60647
773.486.9590

covenantchicago.org

