

Pontius Pilate stands before this crowd, confounded. He had expected to ease their antagonisms by offering amnesty. If they didn't choose Jesus for release (he reasoned), yet they might forget him. And if they couldn't forget him, they might at least be satisfied to take Barabbas as a triumph of sorts and calm their violent temper.

Well, they didn't choose Jesus.

So Pilate asked them a question intended to test his success at cooling their mood. He said: "What'll I do with the fellow you call King of the Jews?

— and then he took three steps backward, gaping.

Whether he asked it wrong, or whether there's something deeper between the prisoner and the people than he can fathom, their thunderous answer stunned the governor. He stands now confounded, and all the beasts of Jerusalem shiver and stamp as before a storm. Such a roaring is shaking the morning! A hundred throats all bellowing one word.

~ Walt Wangerin

Palm Sunday, 6th Sunday of Lent Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago

cover, ai generated image inner cover, Lenae van der Bijl

## 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

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.



GOD GATHERS US TO WORSHIP Pastor Dan Adamson

## PALM SUNDAY CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

#### All: The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

Leader: Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous.

#### All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

Leader: The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

#### All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

Leader: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

#### All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

## **PROCESSION OF THE PALMS**

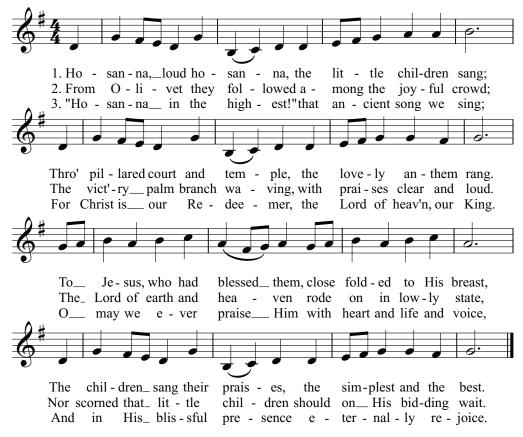


Children process with palms



The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out,

> Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! John 12:12-13



Hosanna, Loud Hosanna, Words: Jennette Threftfall, 1873; Music: Wirtemberg, 1784

## **PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION**

- Leader: O Mighty King, you are triumphant and victorious and you are our redeemer. We praise you and adore you for your great work.
- All: Father, by your Spirit and through your conquering Son, speak to us as we enter this holy week and open our eyes and hearts to your presence among us today. Amen.

Silent moment of adoration



#### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Leader: Loving God, on this day in true humilty and without conceit, you rode a donkey into Jerusalem and came in peace, giving yourself unto death, even death on the cross.

In Christ then, have the same love. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

All: We confess our lack of humility. We confess our selfishness and conceit. We confess our unbelief. Help us in our unbelief. Help us to find our rest in you and your mercy. On this day you set your eyes towards Jerusalem and our redemption. Amen.

Silent time to pray and confess

1. Though I have borne\_ the fruit of sin. though I have 2. With tears of blood that long-est night, He took the felt the ser-pent's sting, \_\_\_\_ though I de - serve\_ the en-mithat ought be cup. mine.\_\_\_\_ Though in the dark. I fell a there in the gar - den, what do see?\_ ty,\_ Ι the I wake to there in gar - den, sleep,\_\_\_\_\_ see, Christ stands for me.\_ Christ stands for There in the me.\_ Christ prays for Christ prays for There in the me,\_\_ me.\_ gar - den, He stands for me.\_ \_Where I have fal - len, He in - ter gar - den. He prays for me.\_\_ Up on the hill-side, Geh-se - ma cedes. Ha - le lu jah, He stands for me. ne. Ha - le - lu jah, He prays\_ for me.

The Garden by Sandra McCracken, 2023

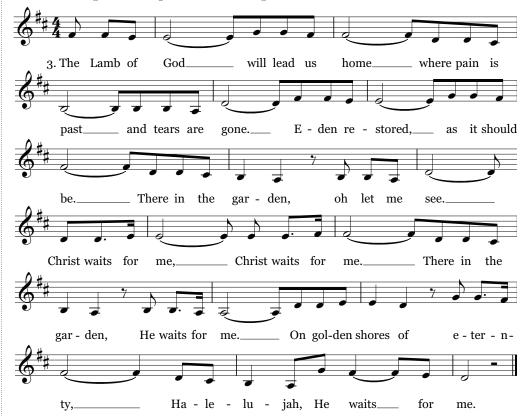
GOD FORGIVES AND CLEANSES US

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139.23

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

#### from Romans 8:34-35, 37

Leader: While we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, and now that we are reconciled, we will we be saved by his life. We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.



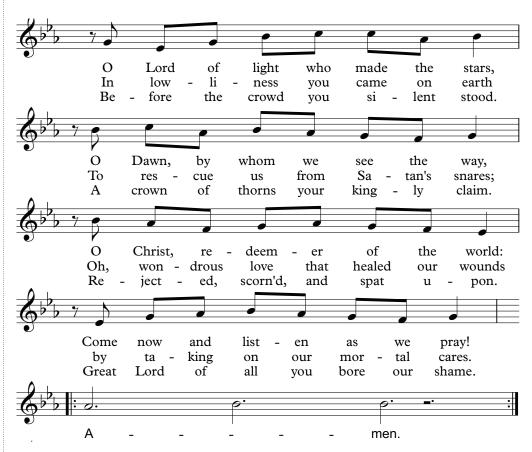
#### LESSONS FROM THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson - Psalm 118.19-29, *p.511* New Testament Lesson - Ephesians 2.17-22, *p.977* 

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

#### All: Thanks be to God.

GOD SPEAKS TO US



O Lord of Light, Words: Latin chant, 9th cent., Music: Sarum Plainsong, mode IV, Chorus & vs3 by vdB, 2017

#### THE WORD

#### This is the Heir, Mark 12.1-12, p.848

<sup>1</sup> And he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country. <sup>2</sup> When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. <sup>3</sup> And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. <sup>5</sup> And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed. <sup>6</sup> He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' <sup>7</sup> But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' <sup>8</sup> And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. <sup>9</sup> What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. <sup>10</sup> Have you not read this Scripture:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; <sup>11</sup> this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes??"

 $^{12}$  And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away.

#### COME WITH PEACE

## GOD COMMUNES WITH US

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. 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

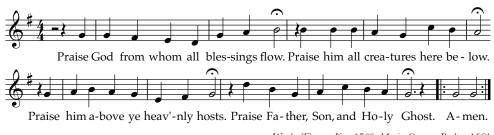


Sursum Corda by Terry Scott Taylor and Steve Hindalong, 2002

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

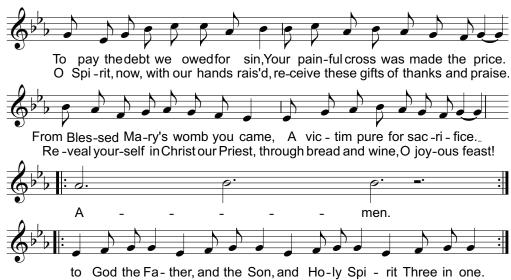
#### COME WITH THANKSGIVING

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 give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord.

Leader: Who was sent by you, in your great goodness, to be our Saviour; by the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh and, as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin Mary, was seen on earth and went about among us.

- All: And now on this most holy of weeks, we give you thanks because for our sins He opened wide his arms for us on the cross; by dying he destroyed death, and by rising he restored to us everlasting life, so fulfilling your will and winning for you a holy people.
- Leader: Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the saints past and present, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:
- 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.



## 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.

# Communion

Receivina

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:

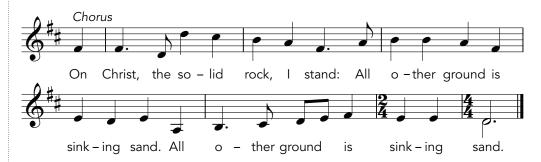


My Hope is Built on Nothing Less, Words: Edward Mote, 1834, Music: Eric Rose, Redemption Presbyterian Church, Tinley Park, IL, 2020

#### **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.



#### **IN COMMUNITY**

Announcements, events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks

#### WITH JOY

Change the Color:

## GOD SENDS US

Grace to you and peace from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood. Revelation 1:5



Ride On! Ride On in Majesty, Words: Henry Hart Milman, 1820; Music, J. Fred Wolle, 1888, arr., vdB, 2010

WITH BLESSING

Pastor Aaron Baker

## WELCOME TO COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## **TODAY AT COVENANT**

#### 1st Service, 9:00am

Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

- 2nd service, 11:15am
- 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)

#### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 28, Maundy Thursday: We're providing Table Liturgies for use at home. You can find them on the website or on the Welcome Table.

March 29, 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.

March 29, Good Friday evening: Tenebrae Service, 7pm. Childcare available for children 0-4.

March 31, Easter Sunday: Services at 9:00am and 11:15am. Join us for coffee and refreshments in the Education Building between services.

#### Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Holly and Steve Lehmann , Isak Siemens <sup>(9:00)</sup>; Shane Rector, Laurie Baker, Andrew Dykstra <sup>(11:15)</sup>

Ushers: Aidan Feely, Kim Edison, Leslie Lucas <sup>(9:00)</sup>; Phil Koerner, Rich Van Der Molen <sup>(11:15)</sup>

Musicians: Paul van der Bijl, guitar vocals; Paul David Young, electric guitar, vocals; Matthew Siefert, bass; Erica Norman, vocals; Adriane Fink, piano; Joel Miller, 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:** 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 class meets in the Library and is taught by Andy Bilhorn.

**God Among Us:** 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. Young Bok Kim (PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago) will teach this class in the All Saints Room.

**From Gospel to Apocalypse:** Join us for this 9-week class taught primarily by Olivia Stewart Lester (Associate Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity, Loyola University). Throughout this series, we'll be introduced to the full New Testament canon and how these texts relate to the broader story of Scripture. We'll also spend time each week in specific passages to help us better understand these books of Scripture. Class will begin on April 14.

**In the Company of Jesus:** Throughout the Gospels, Jesus teaches and cares for his disciples in unique ways. What can we learn from the way Jesus cares for those who are closest to him and what can it tell us about how he speaks to us? Join us for this 6-week class beginning April 14. We'll look at stories centered on things like power, suffering, listening well, and fear with an eye towards learning what Jesus means to teach us as we seek to follow him.

**Covenant Life Class:** Join us for our Covenant Life Class taught by the staff. This 6 week class, beginning April 14 is for those who are interested in learning more about the church and the things we care about most, starting with the gospel. This class is a requirement for those who wish to become members. For more information, contact Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**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:** Join others from Covenant on April 26-28 for our annual men's retreat at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, WI. You can find more information and register online at https://covenantchicago.org/events/ mens-retreat/. Contact men@covenantchicago.org with questions.

**Congregational Meeting:** Covenant will have our annual congregational meeting on April 7 at 10:30 am in the sanctuary. We'll talk about the budget that begins on April 1, hear some updates about the previous year, and talk about some projects we hope to tackle together in the coming year. Children's Sunday School classes and nurseries will be available, but there will be no adult classes during this time.

## 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).

**April Mercy Bin:** For the month of April, Covenant is collecting donations to support New Moms, an organization working to change the future for young moms experiencing poverty and homelessness in Chicagoland by offering housing, job training, and family support. Current needs are for Enfamil baby formula (especially NeuroPro and Gentlease NeuroPro), disposable diapers (particularly sizes 4, 5, and 6) and diaper wipes. Donations will be collected in the Mercy Bin in the back of the Narthex throughout the month. Questions? Contact Deb Van Der Molen (dvmolen79@gmail.com).

**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**

**Easter Flowers:** If you'd like to donate a flower for Easter Sunday in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Larissa Bossemeyer (lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org) to make arrangements. Consider a donation of \$20 for each flower. You can pick up the flowers after the 11:15am service on Easter Sunday in the front of the sanctuary.

**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).



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

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covenantchicago.org

