

# Trinity

In the Beginning, not in time or space, But in the quick before both space and time, In Life, in Love, in co-inherent Grace, In three in one and one in three, in rhyme, In music, in the whole creation story, In His own image, His imagination, The Triune Poet makes us for His glory, And makes us each the other's inspiration. He calls us out of darkness, chaos, chance, To improvise a music of our own, To sing the chord that calls us to the dance, Three notes resounding from a single tone, To sing the End in whom we all begin; Our God beyond, beside us and within.

#### ~ Malcolm Guite

4th Sunday of Pentecost, June 9, 2024 Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago cover watercolor by Jamie Gray

# 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

# Prepare for worship

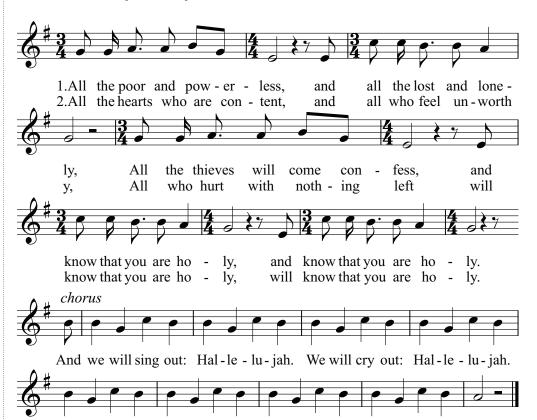
GOD

US TO WORSHIP

**GATHERS** 

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.



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: Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,

for in you my soul takes refuge;

All: In the shadow of your wings I will take refuge.

Leader: My heart is steadfast, O God,

All: my heart is steadfast!

Leader: I will sing and make melody!

All: Awake, O my soul!

Leader: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;

I will sing praises to you among the nations.

All: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

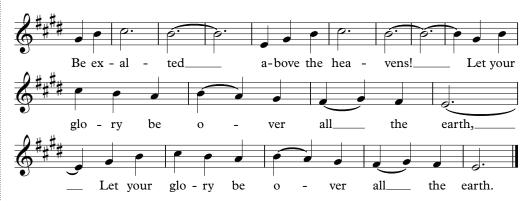


Psalm 57, vs.1-2 by Isaac Watts, 1720; vs.3 by William Wrangham, 1829; music and chorus by Paul van der Bijl, 2015

# PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

Leader: O God, how merciful you are and what joy and comfort we find under the shadow and refuge of your wing.

All: We adore you. Let all the earth see your glory and exalt your greatness.



Silent moment of adoration



Leader: Awake, O my soul. Come Holy Spirit:

All: Open our eyes to your presence among us today.

Leader: Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."

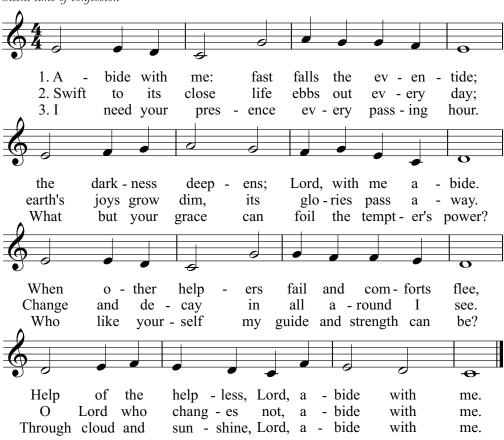
All: Jesus, you have bound us to yourself in love, and we draw our life from you. Forgive us our tendency to sustain ourselves and find our meaning in anything but your grace and mercy.

Silent time of confession



Confess your sins in church, and do not go to prayer with a guilty conscience. This is the way of

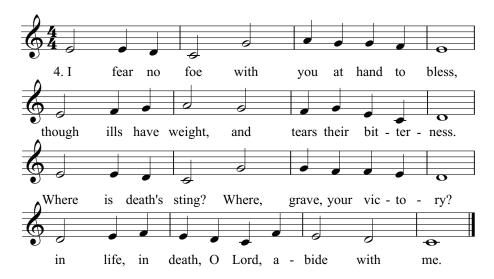
> from the Didache, 100 AD



Abide With Me, Words: Henry Lyte, All Saints' Church, Brixham, UK, 1847; Music: William Monk, 1861

Leader: Jesus promises, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

All: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set us free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.



#### **LESSONS FROM THE WORD**

Old Testament Lesson - Numbers 20:2-9, p.128 Gospel Lesson - Matthew 3:13-17, p.808

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

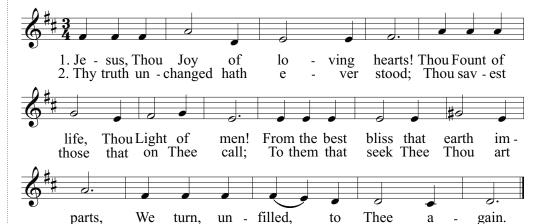
# All: Thanks be to God.

good,

To

them

that



find

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

Thee

all

in

all.

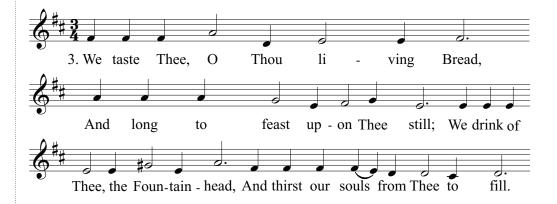
...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11

THE WORD Pastor Dan Adamson

The Spirit Bears Witness That We're God's Children, Romans 8:12-17, p.944

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.



9

#### **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

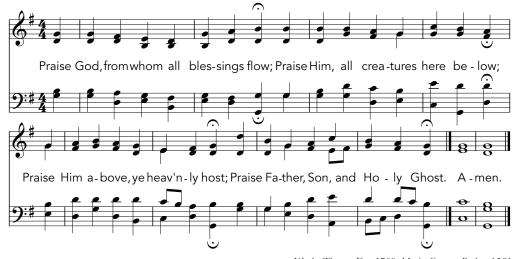
Greet each other in the name of Christ.

# 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 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 box 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

Leader: It is a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God of glory. We thank you for giving back to us what we have offered you. Accept these offerings of bread, wine and gifts to you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to the work of your kingdom.

All: Blessed are you, God and Father of all. Through creation and covenant, prophet and promise you have called us your own and made us your children.

Leader: You pledged yourself to Abraham and Sarah and their offspring forever. Through the law you showed your people the path of life; when they rejected your ways you did not forsake them but sent prophets to bring them home to you.

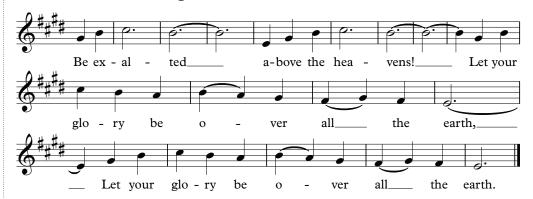
All: In the fullness of time you sent your Son, making us heirs according to the promise made to Abraham, and adopting us as your children through faith.

Leader: In Christ you gather to yourself all your people in an eternal embrace where there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female.

All: In his dying and rising you take away our sin and open to us the gift of everlasting life.

Leader: And so with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven enfolded in the bonds of your love, we praise your name and join the 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.



#### **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

\* written by members of the congregation

Prayer for those taking communion \*

Gracious Lord Jesus, how can it be that the loving, holy God of the universe would die for a sinner such as me? Without your selfless act of love, I would be destined to eternity without you. By eating this bread and drinking this cup, I acknowledge your atoning work of grace in my life. As this bread and wine are absorbed into my body for nourishment, may you likewise be absorbed into my soul to transform me into the person you envision be to be. Amen.

Prayer for those searching for truth \*

Jesus, you once encountered someone who was challenged in their faith; they told you "I believe, help my unbelief." I too find myself lacking sufficient faith to live as you desire. Please help me take a small step beyond my comfort zone and move toward you in faith. I rest in your loving kindness to me. Amen.

Prayer of belief \*

Jesus, I'm not sure what I believe to be true in life. I'm curious about the claims you've made and the works you performed. I am aware that I need someone/something more than just myself. My failings are ever before me. I now see that despite those failings, your love for me is greater than I ever imagined. So I turn to you now as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin \*

Lord Jesus, I am very aware that I have failed to live according to your teachings. I have assumed the throne of my life and chosen to pursue my own sources of happiness even when I knew it was in opposition to your best desires for me. I humbly come to you and acknowledge my poor choices. By eating this bread and drinking this cup, I once again ask for your forgiveness and grace. Amen.

# **Song for Communion**

You are welcome to join in song:



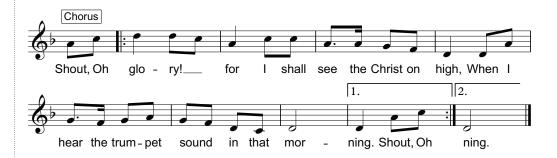
When Peace Like A River, Words: Horatio Spafford, 1873. Music: Philip Bliss, 1876.

# **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 Pastor Aaron Baker

Announcements, events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks

#### **WITH JOY**

GOD SENDS US



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

WITH BLESSING Pastor Dan Adamson

#### 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 courtyard
- Nursery: Ages 0-4 (Lower Level)
- Adult Education: From Gospel to Apocalypse (Fellowship Hall, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Beauty and Meaning (Library, Ed Building)
- Family Education: Beauty and Meaning (All Saints Room, Lower Level)

#### Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Barry Reece, Melissa Norton (9:00)

Ushers: Matt Ver Steeg (9:00)

Musicians: Paul van der Bijl, guitar, Paul David Young, electric guitar; Matthew Siefert, bass; Adèle-Marie Buis oboe; Ansel Pierson, oboe; Adriane Fink, piano; Liam van der Bijl, 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**

**Summer Common Ground:** Through June 16, Covenant is offering two Common Ground classes, one which is designed to be family-friendly. During this time, there will be no Sunday School for children or youth. A nursery will be open for children 0-4. Beginning June 23, Covenant will be on summer break during Common Ground; no classes or childcare will be available. We invite you to join us between the services in the courtyard and Fellowship Hall for snacks and coffee.

**From Gospel to Apocalypse:** In this series, we'll look at the full New Testament canon and see 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 this week will be taught by Jason Stanghelle and will cover the book of Hebrews. Next week, Olivia Stewart Lester will close this series, focusing on the book of Revelation.

**Beauty and Meaning: Exploring Covenant's Sanctuary.** Join us for this class that focuses on different artistic and architectural elements of our sanctuary. In the All Saints Room, the staff will lead a session accessible to families with elementary aged students. A parent is required to attend with their child. In the Library, PD Young will lead a session aimed towards adults and older students. Each week, we'll end by exploring the sanctuary together. We'll cover themes including biblical scenes, architecture, and symbolism.

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**June 30 Cookout:** Join us for our first all-church cookout of the summer. On June 30, we'll have one service at 10:15 followed by a potluck cookout in the courtyard and grassy lot. We need over 50 volunteers in order for the cookout to be a success. If you'd be willing to help with setup, food service or clean up, please contact Pastor Dan Adamson (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

**Women's Summer Socials:** Let's stay connected this summer! Please join the women of Covenant for casual backyard socials on June 20 and Aug 8 from 7 to 9 pm at members' homes on the northside. There is no registration fee, but bring a light snack or favorite beverage to share! The locations will be in the Women's Events email newsletter, so please email women@covenantchicago.org to ensure you have all the details!

**Women's Fall Retreat:** Save the date! This year's retreat will be Oct. 4-6 at DeKoven. More details to come. Look for early registration in August!

#### **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Home Court on July 19:** Every summer, Breakthrough hosts a series of summer block parties & basketball tournaments in East Garfield Park. Covenant is partnering with Breakthrough on Friday, July 19th to host Home Court in St. Louis Park from 4:30-8:30 pm. We need 15 Volunteers to help prepare food for the free cookout and help with children's activities. You can sign up to help with a portion of the event or the whole event. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Pastor Dan Adamson (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

**Ushers Needed:** Ushers are the first people to greet people as they come to Covenant. They pass out the orders of worship, help people find the bathrooms and classrooms, and help at the end of service to clean up the sanctuary. Most ushers serve once a month. If you'd like to join our usher team, please contact Margret-Ann Natsis (margretann.natsis@gmail.com).

**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).

**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/.

**Gospel Justice Center Volunteers:** Covenant hosts a legal aid clinic on the second Saturday of every month and we're aiming to grow to serve more clients. In order to do that, we're looking for volunteers to serve in some of the non-legal roles. We could use one more volunteer to help on Saturday mornings to greet guests and support them as well as someone to take on some design work both for a social media account and a print brochure to help clients find our clinic. If you'd be interested in helping in either of those roles, please contact Linda Gehrs (Imgehrs@gmail.com). Most volunteers serve once every other month.

#### **NEWS AND UPDATES**

**One Service Sundays:** Mark your calendar for our one service Sundays this summer at 10:15. June 30, July 7, August 25 and September 1, we'll have one service at 10:15. There will be no Common Ground on these weeks. On June 30 and August 25, we'll have a cookout after the service.

**David Williams Memorial Service.** There will be a memorial service for David Williams at Covenant on June 27 at lpm. David served for 21 years as the third pastor of Covenant. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

**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: Romans 8:18-30



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, Ioshua 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

2012 W. Dickens Chicago, IL 60647 773.486.9590

covenantchicago.org

