



The Beautiful City

July 12, 2020

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago

7th Sunday of Pentecost

Call to Worship

Psalm 126, A Psalm of Ascents

Leader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**All: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

Leader: then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

**All: The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad.**

Leader: Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!

**All: Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!**

Leader: He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,

**All: shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.**

**The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad.**

1. How pleased and blest was I, To hear the peo - ple cry,
 2. Zi - on thrice hap - py place, A - dorned with won-drous grace,
 3. May peace at - tend thy gate, And joy with - in thee wait,
 4. My tongue re - peats her vows, Peace to this sa - cred house!

Come, let us seek our God to - day! Yes, with a cheer-ful zeal,
 And walls of strength em - brace thee round: In thee our tribes ap - pear
 To bless the soul of e - very guest: The man who seeks thy peace,
 For here my friends and kin - dred dwell: And since my glo - rious God

We haste to Zi - on's hill, And there our vows and ho - nors pay.
 To pray, and praise, and hear The sa - cred gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
 And wish - es thine in - crease, A thou - sand bles - sings on him rest!
 Makes thee his blest a - bode, My soul shall e - ver love thee well.

Psalm 122, words: Isaac Watts, 1720; music, Silesian Folk melody, 1842

Confession of Sin, from Ephesians 4

Leader: *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'To Thee I come a sin-ner poor And wait for mer-cy at Thy door_ To Thee I come a sin-ner foul Yet grant me Lord your fa-vor now_ In - deed, I've no - where else to flee, Oh Mer - cy through blood I make my plea Oh God be mer-ci-ful_ to me. To Thee I come a sin-ner God be mer-ci-ful_ to me. To Thee I come a sin-ner weak and scarce know how to pray or speak, From fear and great and well Thou know - est all my state, Yet full for - weak - ness set me free, Oh God be mer-ci-ful_ to me! give - ness is with Thee, Oh God be mer-ci-ful_ to me!' The score ends with a double bar line.

To Thee I come a sin-ner poor And wait for mer-cy at Thy door_
To Thee I come a sin-ner foul Yet grant me Lord your fa-vor now_
— In - deed, I've no - where else to flee, Oh
— Mer - cy through blood I make my plea Oh
God be mer-ci-ful_ to me. To Thee I come a sin-ner
God be mer-ci-ful_ to me. To Thee I come a sin-ner
weak and scarce know how to pray or speak, From fear and
great and well Thou know - est all my state, Yet full for -
weak - ness set me free, Oh God be mer-ci-ful_ to me!
give - ness is with Thee, Oh God be mer-ci-ful_ to me!

To Thee I Come, Words: Samuel Medley, 1700s, addl. txt vdbijl, 2014, Music Clint Wells, 2006

Silent time to pray and confess

a prayer to help with confession:

*Most merciful God,
I confess that I have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what I have done,
and by what I have left undone.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved my neighbor as myself.
I am truly sorry and I humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on me and forgive me;
that I may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon, *from Ephesians 1*

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

Sing to Assure

To Thee I come a sin-ner saved For I have on - ly You to thank.
— And where You are I long to be, Oh
God be mer-ci-ful_ to me. When You re - turn Oh, Lord at
last and there when all my sins are passed, With all the
saints I'll then a - gree, Oh God was mer-ci-ful_ to me!

Lessons from the Word

New Testament Lesson -
Gospel Lesson -

Hebrews 11.12-16
Luke 13.34-35

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker
The Beautiful City, Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,
 "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
Our feet have been standing
 within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Jerusalem—built as a city
 that is bound firmly together,
to which the tribes go up,
 the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
 to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
There thrones for judgment were set,
 the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
 "May they be secure who love you!
Peace be within your walls
 and security within your towers!"
For my brothers and companions' sake
 I will say, "Peace be within you!"
For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
 I will seek your good.

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe, you made the wonder that is earth, inscribing soil, sky, and sea with life, energy, and glory.

All: Though we look upon you with eyes dimmed by the Fall, you gaze upon us with eyes filled with grace.

Leader: You breathe new air into our choking lungs, you bring life out of broken earth, you turn the roiling seas into the waters of our baptism.

All: You parted the waters to liberate your captive people, and you rolled away the stone to bring us face to face with your resurrected Son.

Leader: You make us your Son's body, taken, blessed, and broken on the cross to be shared for the life of the world.

All: And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

**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.
All wafers are gluten free and available in a single serve cup

Receiving Communion

Communion (also called The Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the family meal of baptized Christians. We invite all to partake of this sacrament who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and seek strength to live more faithfully for him.

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.

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.**

Musical interlude and moment of meditation.

News & Announcements

Announcements in our community

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

Faithfulness in a World Forgotten: Join us as we explore some of the major developments of the medieval church and learn how they've shaped the world today. Each Sunday, we'll share a recorded lecture and primary text reading. There will be an optional discussion the following Wednesday at 7:30 pm. You can find past classes here: <https://covenantchicago.org/events/faithfulness-in-a-world-forgotten/>. Contact Larissa to join the discussion (lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org).

Volunteers Needed. Covenant is looking for volunteers to help on Sunday mornings as we reopen for worship. We're looking for volunteers to help at 1 or 2 services as ushers and greeters to welcome people to Covenant and answer questions about changes to our services. For more details or to sign up, please contact office@covenantchicago.org.

Breakthrough's Trunk Party. Breakthrough is hosting a Trunk Party on August 1st for 50 high school graduates in Garfield Park who are headed off to college. At the party, guests fill the student's "trunk" with essentials for college—such as bedding, towels, toiletries, laundry supplies, and more. Covenant is helping provide the items these students need as they head off to college. You can send things directly to Breakthrough from their Target registry. Covenant is also looking for 30 volunteers to help setup the day before or prepare and serve food for the party. If you'd like to learn more about volunteering or to sign up, please contact Shane Rector (shane.rector13@gmail.com).

Sunday Services: If you'd like to attend an in-person service at Covenant, please register online. Registration will open on Wednesdays. Register and read about the modifications to service here: <https://covenantchicago.org/events/back-to-church/>

Do you need help? If the ongoing repercussions of covid-19 present a financial or physical hardship for you, please contact our deacons (diaconate@covenantchicago.org). Your email will go directly to the deacons, and they'll treat it with confidence. If you're able, now is a great time to contribute to the [Deacons Fund](#) to meet the needs of others in our congregation.

Go With Joy

All:



1. Praise the Lord all praise and bless - ing. Rend - er to His migh - ty name. ___
2. Stars a - bove in bril - liant glo - ry. Sun that scat - ters wide its gold. ___



Thank Him ev - er for His good - ness. Now and ev - er mo - re the same. ___
Birds a - loft all join the chor - us. ev - ery crea - ture young and old. ___



Now and ev - er mo re the same. ___ He cre - a - ted ear - th and hea - ven.
ev - ery crea - ture young - and old. ___ Hills and moun - tains raise their voi - ces.



Deep - est sea and all there - in. ___ Small est cre - ture high - est be - ing.
Trees and for - ests clap their hands. ___ E - ven stones will not be si - lent.



Let your an - thems now be - gin. ___ Let your an - thems now be gin. ___
Sing his praise through - out the lands. ___ Sing his praise through out the lands.

Chorus



Ev - 'ry thing that You ___ have made is beau - ti - ful.



Ev - 'ry thing that You ___ have made is good. ___

Praise the Lord All Praise and Blessing, Words and Music, Matt Scott, 2013, addl. text, vdBijl, 2017

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.*

Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker

Pastor: x31, abaker@covenantchicago.org

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Support Staff

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Director of Care and Counseling Ministry (CCM): mdillon@covenantchicago.org

Your email inquiry will be promptly answered.

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Ian Troll

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Session

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

Diaconate

Rich Lane, Jonathan Ellison, Phil Koerner.

Treasurer: Ben Meyer

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

Covenant Life

worship | grow and learn | serve

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

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

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

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

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

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



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