

*Pray
without
ceasing*
a quartet of Psalms

Word

I, who live by words, am wordless when
I try my words in prayer. All language turns
To silence. Prayer will take my words and then
Reveal their emptiness. The stilled voice learns
To hold its peace, to listen with the heart
To silence that is joy, is adoration.
The self is shattered, all words torn apart
In this strange patterned time of contemplation
That, in time, breaks time, breaks words, breaks me,
And then, in silence, leaves me healed and mended.
I leave, returned to language, for I see
Through words, even when all words are ended.

I, who live by words, am wordless when
I turn me to the Word to pray. Amen.

~ From Madeline L'Engle's *The Ordering of Love*

17th Sunday of Pentecost, September 1, 2024
Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Welcome to Covenant

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

Larissa Bossemeyer

Prepare for worship

Ephesians 4:1–6

Dear God, we gather in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as we were called to the one hope that belongs to our call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

GOD
GATHERS
US TO
WORSHIP



1. There is one bo - dy, there is one Spi - rit, there is one hope,
2. There is one Lord, there is one faith, there is one bap-ti-sm,



to which we are called. One God and Fa-ther of all,
to which we are called.



one Lord o - ver all, through all, in all.

*Ephesians 4, music by Steve Williamson,
Church of the Resurrection, Wheaton, 2011*

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Jeremiah 10

Leader: There is none like you, O LORD;
you are great, and your name is great in might.

**All: The LORD is the true God;
he is the living God and the everlasting King.**

Leader: It is he who made the earth by his power,
who established the world by his wisdom,
and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

**All: When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens,
and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth.**

Leader: He makes lightning for the rain,
and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

**All: There is none like you, O LORD;
you are great, and your name is great in might.**



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - migh - ty, the King of cre - a - tion!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drou - sly reign - eth,
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de - fend thee;
4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore Him!



O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion!
Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth!
Sure - ly His good - ness, and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.
All that hath life and breath, come now with prai - ses be - fore Him.



All ye who hear, Now to His tem - ple draw
Hast thou not seen How thy de - sires e'er have
Pon - der a - new What the Al - migh - ty can
Let the A - men Sound from His peo - ple a -



near; Join me in glad a - do - ra - tion.
been; Gran - ted in what He or - dain - eth?
do, If with His love He be - friend thee.
gain, Gla - dy for aye we a - dore Him.

Praise to the Lord, Words: Joachim Neander, 1680. Music: Erneuertem Gesangbuch, 1665

PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

Silent moment of adoration

O God and Father, almighty King of creation, as we gather here we behold your power and your glory manifest in Word and Sacrament. There is none like you and we adore and love you.



The musical notation is written on two staves in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and half notes. The lyrics are: "All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near; Join me in glad adoration."

Leader: Come Holy Spirit,

**All: Open our eyes to see you,
 open our ears to hear you.
 Visit us with your presence today. Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

adapted from Psalm 103

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not his benefits:
 He forgives all our iniquities,
 Though our lives pass quickly, his love remains steadfast,
 He works justice for the oppressed,
 He is merciful and abounding in love.

**All: How easy it is, O Lord, to forget
 all that you have done and will do for us.
 Forgive us our self-centered lack of thankfulness,
 and grant us the strength to worship you with joy and gratitude.**

GOD
 FORGIVES
 AND
 CLEANSSES
 US

moment of silent confession

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

from the
 Didache,
 100 AD

Chorus

The stead-fast love of the Lord, ne-ver ceas - es, ne-ver
 ceas - es. The stead-fast love of the Lord, ne-ver cea - ses.

1. He re - moves all our sins, as
 2. Like the flow'r's of the field, our
 3. He works right - eous - ness, through his
 4. He is mer - ci - ful, full of
 5. For as high as the heavn's are a -

far as the East is from the West!
 lives, like the grass, they flour - ish then pass.
 jus - tice and strength for all the opp - ressed.
 grace, slow to wrath, a - bound - ing in love!
 bove all the earth, so great is his love!

Psalm 103, music by Paul van der Bijl, 2024

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from Psalm 103:11, 1

Leader: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us!

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!**



Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all— that is— with - in— me bless his name!

Chorus



The stead-fast love of the Lord, — ne-ver ceas - es, ne-ver
ceas-es. The stead-fast love of the Lord, — ne-ver cea - ses.

LESSONS FROM THE WORD

read by Kristin & Shane O'Grady

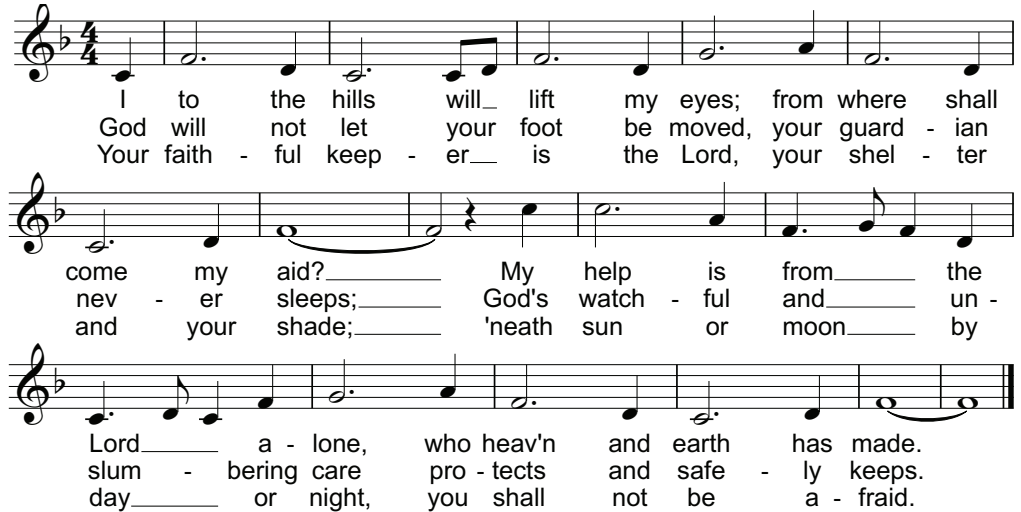
Gospel Lesson - John 15.9-11, p.902

New Testament Lesson - Ephesians 4.25-27, p.978

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOD
SPEAKS
TO US



I to the hills will lift my eyes; from where shall
God will not let your foot be moved, your guard - ian
Your faith - ful keep - er is the Lord, your shel - ter
come my aid? My help is from the
nev - er sleeps; God's watch - ful and un -
and your shade; 'neath sun or moon by
Lord a - lone, who heav'n and earth has made.
slum - bering care pro - tects and safe - ly keeps.
day or night, you shall not be a - fraid.

Psalm 121, Words, Psalter, 1912; Music, attr. Stephen Jenks 1832

THE WORD

Pastor Aaron Baker

An Evening Prayer, Psalm 4, p.448

- ¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!
- ² O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? *Selah*
- ³ But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.
- ⁴ Be angry, and do not sin;
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*
- ⁵ Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.
- ⁶ There are many who say, “Who will show us some good?
Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!”
- ⁷ You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.
- ⁸ In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.



From e - vil God will_ keep you safe, pro - vide for
all you need; _____ your go - ing out, _____ your
com - ing in, God will for - ev - er lead.

GOD
COMMUNES
WITH US

"We salute one another with a kiss. There is then brought to the priest the bread and a cup of wine mixed with water; and he taking them, gives praise and glory to the Father of the universe."

Justin Martyr,
153 AD

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**

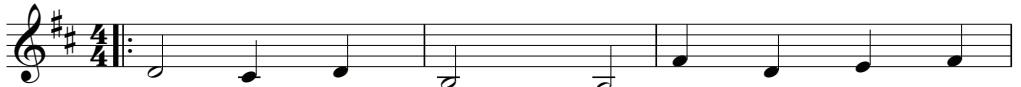
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

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 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.



1. In Christ we of - fer all that He has
2. So we re - mem - ber all that He re -
3. Sent forth in beau - ty, rec - on - cil - ing



of - fered. The per - fect of - fer - ing.____
mem - bered. The whole of love re - turned.____
all things. Ra - diant in ho - li - ness.____

refrain



Christ is the life_ of the world.____ Christ is the life_ of the world.____



Let us lift up, lift our hearts. Let us lift up, lift our hearts.



It is good to lift our hearts_ to the Lord.____

Christ is the Life of the World, by Sandra McCracken, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, 2022

COME WITH THANKSGIVING

St. Martin-in-the-fields, Church of England, 2016

Leader: It is good to lift our hearts to you, Lord.
As we approach this meal, we thank and praise you
because you make these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine,
into the means of our redemption,
and you turn our fallen folly into the occasion of your risen glory.

All: In Christ the Lamb you gave us every good thing.

Leader: Though we strayed from your ways and slayed your holy one,

**All: you set before us this gracious banquet
in which that crucified and risen Lamb reconciles us with you.**

Leader: And so we live in gratitude for your mercy
and in praise of your grace,
joining the the company of heaven in their constant 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.**

refrain



Christ is the life_ of the world._ Christ is the life_ of the world._

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 **

God in heaven, you have promised to meet your people here, at this table. For your own sake, make good on that promise. Use these ordinary elements to nourish our faith. Share your grace with your church today. Remind us of the Son's saving work, and that evil and death will not have the final word. Amen.

*Prayer for those searching for truth **

Lord Jesus, I have heard your name. I have heard truth spoken in this place this morning. But I have heard other things before, and in other places that seemed true to me. I have heard people tell lies in your holy name. Show me that this time is different. Show me who you are, and shine the truth of the gospel overwhelmingly on me so that I can't help but see you and know that you are the source of all truth. Amen.

*Prayer of belief **

Lord God, show me how to wrestle with unbelief as Jacob wrestled with the Angel. Turn my questions into faith, answer my doubts with your presence. Show me that while I ask for proof, it is your love that I need. Your promises are secure to the bedrock, strong against the breaking wave of my fear. Let my doubt result into a hard-won faith rooted in your good word. Amen.

*Prayer for those struggling with sin **

Jesus, help me to obey. Take my desires and bury them with an even greater desire for you. When I face temptation, I feel weak. Be my strength. Give me the grace to choose to follow you, and remind me, even now, that the peace I long for can be found nowhere apart from your presence. Help me choose to love you more. Amen.

Song for Communion

You are welcome to join in song:

1. Lord Je - sus Christ, to You we pray:
 2. That we may keep this truth in mind,
 3. Our Sa - viour says: Come un - to Me,
 4. Then praise the Fa - ther, by whose love
 5. If in your heart you find this rest

The wrath of God is turned a - way;
 Your bro - ken bo - dy here we find;
 All you who feel your po - ver - ty:
 The Son des - cen - ded from a - bove,
 Which you have here in words con - fessed,

Your a - go - ny and bit - ter death
 Here we re - ceive Your pre - ci - ous blood,
 My mer - cy I will free - ly give,
 Be - came the Bread of Life to thee,
 A wel - come guest you here can be,

Re - deemed us from e - ter - nal wrath.
 A cleans - ing sac - ri - fi - cial blood. Ref.1
 Your an - guished cons - cience to re - lieve. Ref.1
 And bore your sins on Cal - vry's tree. Ref.1
 And Christ Him - self will nour - ish thee. Ref.2

Refrain

1. This firm - ly we be lieve, Our Sa - viour we re ceive.
 2. This firm - ly we be lieve, Our Sa - viour we re ceive,

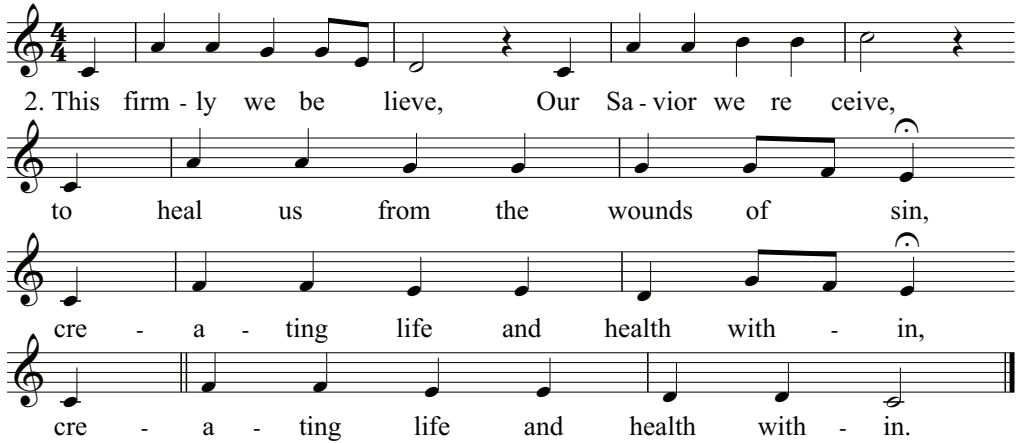
Come ga - ther at this Ta - ble of spread
 to heal us from the wounds of sin,
 with ho - ly wine and li - ving bread,
 cre - a - ting life and health with - in,
 with ho - ly wine and li - ving bread.
 cre - a - ting life and health with - in.

Lord Jesus Christ To You We Pray, Martin Luther, 1524; Thomas Tallis, 1560, addl. words and ref. by vdBijl, 2021

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.**



2. This firm - ly we be lieve, Our Sa - vior we re ceive,
to heal us from the wounds of sin,
cre - a - ting life and health with - in,
cre - a - ting life and health with - in.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

IN COMMUNITY

Larissa Bossemeyer

Announcements, events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks

WITH BELIEF

Nicene Creed, 325 AD

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,

begotten, not made;

of the same essence as the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried.

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures

he ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again with glory

to judge the living and the dead.

His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father and the Son,

And with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

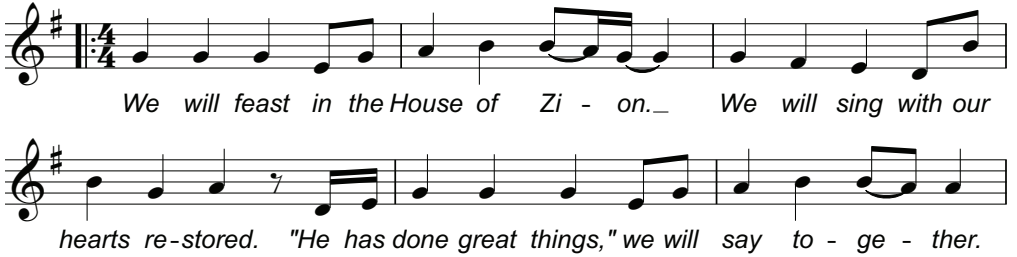
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

WITH JOY

Leader: You have spoken to us in your Word
and we have feasted with you at your Table.
By the power of your Spirit, you are remaking and renewing us.

All: We go with joy knowing you are ever with us
and will nourish and sustain us.

Chorus



We will feast in the House of Zi - on. We will sing with our
hearts re-stored. "He has done great things," we will say to - ge - ther.

Verses



We will feast and weep no more. 1. We will not be burned by the
2. In the dark of night, be-fore the
3. Ev - ery vow we've bro - ken and be-

fire. He is the LORD our God. We are not con-
dawn, my soul, be not a - fraid. For the pro-mised
trayed. You are the Faith - ful one. And from the

sumed by the flood. Up-held, pro-tec - ted, ga - thered up.
morn - ing, oh, how long? Oh, God of Ja - cob, be my strength.
gar - den to the grave, bind us to - ge - ther, bring sha - lom.

We Will Feast, by Sandra McCracken, Westside Anglican Fellowship, Nashville, TN, 2015

WITH BLESSING

Pastor Aaron Baker

Service, 10:15am

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

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Lamont Black, Shane Rector, Melissa Norton

Ushers: James Leach, Margret-Ann Natsis, Paul Kamp

Welcome Table: Phil Koerner

Musicians: Paul van der Bijl, guitar, vocals; Paul David Young, electric guitar; Brian Riggs, bass; Adriane Fink, piano.

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

Read This Book: How to Read Scripture. The Bible is many things: an ancient anthology, God's word, the Church's book. But what is it to us? What should we do with it? How do we make sense of it? Join us starting September 8 for a 5-week class on how to read Scripture taught primarily by Dr. Mark Lester (PhD in Hebrew Bible from Yale University). We'll talk about why we read in community, how we pay attention to literary convention and history, and how Christians have read scripture with and against church tradition. Our last week, we'll think through how to read Scripture as a spiritual exercise. This class will meet in the All Saints Room.

Vote Like a Christian: In this class, we won't tell you who to vote for, but we will talk about how we engage in politics as Christians. We'll think through the ways politics shapes us and our communities, and explore some of the nuances of engaging faithfully in a political context that is marked by fallenness and brokenness. This five-week class will begin on September 8 during Common Ground and will be taught primarily by Larissa Bossemeyer. Class will meet in the Library.

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 or leading a group, 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 beginning September 11 for a small group. You're welcome to join whether you're able to come weekly or occasionally. Childcare is available. Contact Devon Spencer (devonspencer1112@gmail.com) with questions about this group.

Newcomers Lunch: Covenant is hosting a welcome lunch on September 15 at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall for those who are new to Covenant's community. The lunch is a great way to meet others at Covenant and hear from the staff about ways to get more connected to the church. Please RSVP to Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

Dinners Together: Join others from Covenant at potluck dinners throughout the city. On September 21, October 19 and November 16, Covenant will organize dinners for groups of 8-12. If you would be interested in

attending or hosting one of these gatherings, please contact Larissa Bossemeyer (lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org).

Women’s Fall Retreat: Registration is now open for our annual Women’s Retreat at the DeKoven Center in Racine, Wisconsin on October 4-6. Register and learn more at <https://covenantchicago.org/events/womens-retreat/>. Questions? Contact women@covenantchicago.org.

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 (9:15-10:30) or clean up (10:45-11:45). Most volunteers serve once a month in teams of three. If you’d be interested, please contact Larissa Bossemeyer (lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org).

Welcome Table Volunteers: Covenant is looking for a few volunteers to serve at our Welcome Table on Sunday mornings at both services (9:00 and 11:15am). Volunteers will greet people as they leave the service and offer any helpful information regarding adult classes, youth Sunday school, and where to place tear off cards from the bulletin. Interested? Contact Jon Skinner (skinnerj93@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/>.

Pulaski Elementary Block Party: Come join the annual kick-off to the school year at the Pulaski School Block Party on Saturday, September 7 from 1:30 to 5 pm. We have the opportunity to host a booth for the event and encourage the students, families and staff at Pulaski. We will be hosting a paper crafts table where we will be making paper flowers and paper airplanes. No paper crafting experience necessary! Please reach out to Linda Kim (lindakim5@gmail.com) if you can help.

NEWS AND UPDATES

Counseling at Covenant. Covenant’s counselor, Michele Dillion, is available to come alongside those going through challenging circumstances of many kinds – transitions, losses, relationship difficulties, spiritual questioning, parenting, and anxiety and depression. This counseling is available to members and regular attenders of Covenant. If you’re interested in arranging a confidential meeting, email Michele at mdillon@covenantchicago.org.

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.

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: Psalm 62



Giving QR code

PASTORS

Aaron Baker
Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org

Dan Adamson
Associate Pastor, dadamson@covenantchicago.org

STAFF

Larissa Bossemeyer
Director of Ministries
lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org

Michele Dillon
Counselor
mdillon@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, Joshua Norton

Please direct correspondence for the Session to session@covenantchicago.org.

DIACONATE

Andrew Dykstra, Joel Miller, Margret-Ann Natsis, Shane Rector, Jon Skinner, Deb Van Der Molen, Matt Ver Steeg, Kylene Young

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

Treasurer: Ben Harvey

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