



Wings of Refuge

October 11, 2020

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago

20th Sunday of Pentecost

Welcome

Call to Worship

from Psalm 91 and Romans 10: 9, 13

Leader: Let us worship God.

**All: He is our refuge and our fortress,
our God, in whom we trust.**

Leader: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

**All: Let us call upon our true God, believing him in our hearts,
confessing him with our mouths, and worshiping him in spirit and in truth.**



1. He who dwells in the shel-ter of the Most High God will a-bide, will a-
2. I will say to the Lord, my strength, my sal - va - tion, I'll a-bide, I'll a-



bide, will a - bide, in the sha-dow of His might. ____
bide, I'll a - bide, in the sha-dow of Your might. ____ For his an - gels will



guard you_ and His strength will en - fold you. ____ With their hands they will lift you



up, with their hands they will lift you up. You are my



re - fuge, my for - tress, my God in_ whom I trust, my I trust. _

Psalm 91, Music: Paul van der Bijl, 2014

Confession of Sin, from Jeremiah 5 & 6

Leader: *Thus says the Lord:*
"Hear this, O foolish and senseless people,
who have eyes, but see not, who have ears, but hear not.
Do you not fear me? declares the LORD.
Do you not tremble before me?
I placed the sand as the boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot pass;

All: We have become great and rich; we have grown fat and sleek.
We judge not with justice the cause of the fatherless, to make it prosper,
we do not defend the rights of the needy.

Leader: *Wickedness is found among you, my people;*
your houses are full of deceit;

All: We have a stubborn and rebellious heart;
we have turned aside and gone away, and our sins have kept good from us.

Leader: *Thus says the LORD:*
"Stand by the roads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way is; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls.

Song of confession



1. Are you wea - ry hea - vy la - den, are you sore dis - tressed.
2. Has he marks to lead me to him, if he be my guide?
3. Will there be a crown, as Mon - arch, on his brow a - dorn'd?
4. If I find him, if I fol - low, what do I gain here?



"Come to__ me," says Christ our__ Sa - vior, "be at rest."
"In his__ feet and hands our_ wound-prints, and his side."
"Yes, a__ crown in ve - ry__ sure - ty, but of thorns."
"Ma - ny__ sor-rows, ma - ny__ la - bors, ma - ny tears."

Are You Weary, Words: St. Stephen of Mar Sabas, 6th Century; Music: H.W. Baker, 1868; addl. words, vdBijl, 2020

Silent time to pray and confess

Assurance of Pardon, from Matthew 11

Leader: *Jesus declared, All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*



5. If then I still hold him close - ly, what have I at last?

6. If I ask him to re - ceive me, what will he then say?



"Sor - row_ van- quised, la - bor_ end - ed, Jor - dan passed."

"Come to__ me, my child, and_ find your rest this day."

Lessons from the Word

Gospel Lesson -
New Testament Lesson -

Matthew 9.35-38
2 Corinthians 1.3-5

Reader: The Word of the Lord
All: **Thanks be to God**



The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker
If I Should Say I Have Hope, Ruth 1:1–18

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Prayers of the People

A prayer for our church

Leader: Strengthen this congregation in its work and worship.
Fill our hearts with your self-giving love,
that our lives may conform to the image of your Son.
Sustain those among us who need your healing touch.
Comfort those who mourn.
Mend the relationships among us broken and breaking.
Uphold all who suffer in body or mind,
not only those we know and love
but also those known only to you,
that they may know the peace and joy of your supporting care.
Let us pray.

Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our Prayer

A prayer for our city

Leader: Look with compassion on all who suffer.
Support with your love
those with incurable and stigmatized diseases,
those unjustly imprisoned,
those denied dignity,
those who live without hope,
those who are homeless or abandoned.
As you have moved toward us in love,
so lead us to be present with them in their suffering
in the name of Jesus Christ.
Let us pray.

Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our Prayer

A prayer for our world

Leader: Renew our nation and our world in the ways of justice and peace.
Guide those who make and administer our laws
to build a society based on trust and respect.
Move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambition
and to bow to your sovereign rule.
Erase prejudices that oppress,
that all your children may dwell secure,
free of hate, war and injustice.
Let us pray.

Lord in your mercy
All: Hear our Prayer

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

The Lord's Prayer

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.

October Mercy Bin for New Moms: New Moms, an organization supporting young families on the west side of Chicago, is in need of donations to support moms moving into their housing program. They have requested welcome baskets filled with items they'll need in their homes. Covenant is collecting donations in the Mercy Bin throughout October. Items needed include towels, baby wipes, cleaning supplies and paper towels. For a full list of needed supplies, visit our website: covenantchicago.org/october-mercy-bin/. Questions? Contact Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

Kids Gym Time: Covenant is opening our gym for kids ages 5 to 11 on Fridays from 4 to 6 pm for some active play time. Parents are required to remain on site and all children must be masked. There are 20 spots available; children will be in groups of 15 or less and will split their time between active play in the gym and a craft in the Library. You can find additional details and register here: covenantchicago.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/565031.

Blood Drive: Join Covenant as we support our local community through a blood drive. On October 18 from 10 am to 1 pm, Versiti Blood Center will bring their bus to take blood donations in front of Covenant. We invite healthy, low-risk individuals to sign up for an appointment slot: <https://covenantchicago.org/events/blooddrive/>.

Small Groups: Covenant has many small groups that meet both online and in person. Every Wednesday at 7 pm, Pastor Dan leads a group that meets at the church. If you're interested in joining that group or another, please contact Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

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.

Childcare on Sunday Mornings: Covenant is offering limited childcare on Sunday mornings at the 10 am service. Beginning October 25, we'll have two rooms available for ages 1-4 and Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Families must commit to three consecutive weeks of attendance. You can find additional requirements and details on our registration page. planningcenteronline.com/events. Questions? Contact Sherri Bredenberg (sbredenberg@covenantchicago.org).

Go With Joy



1. Re - jice, ye__ pure in heart, re - jice, give_ thanks, and sing:
2. With all the__ an - gel choirs, with all the__ saints of earth,
3. Yes, on thro'_ life's long path, still sing - ing__ as we go,
4. Still lift your_ stan - dard high, Still march in__ firm ar - ray,
5. Praise God who_ reigns on high, the Lord whom we a - dore:



your glo - rious ban - ner wave_ on_ high, the cross of Christ your King.
raise high your_ free, ex - ul - ting_ song, true rap - ture, nobl - est mirth!
from youth to__ age, by night_ and_ day, in glad - ness and in woe.
So - journ - ers_ through the dark - est_ night, Till dawns the gol - den day.
the Fa - ther, _ Son, and Spi - rit_ blest, one God for - e - ver - more.

Refrain



Re - jice, re - jice, re - jice, give_ thanks, and sing!

Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart, Words: E. H. Plumptre, 1865; Music: Arthur H. Messiter, 1893

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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Dan Adamson

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Support Staff

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Your email inquiry will be promptly answered.

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Ian Troll

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Paul van der Bijl

Director of Worship and Music: x33, pvanderbijl@covenantchicago.org

Session

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

Diaconate

Rich Lane, Andrew Dykstra, Jonathan Ellison, Phil Koerner, Paul Leo, Joel Miller, Shane Rector, Jenny Smith, Deb Van Der Molen, Matt Ver Steeg

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 worshipping 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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