

Wings of Refuge

October 18, 2020

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago

21st Sunday of Pentecost

Welcome

Call to Worship

from Genesis 1, Isaiah 55, and Psalm 8

Leader: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth
and it was good.

**All: God said "let there be light"
And he filled the heavens with the sun, moon, and stars,
And he gave us days, years, and seasons
and it was good.**

Leader: God said "let there be land and water"
And he filled it with swarms of all living things big and small
And it was good.

**All: And God made us in his image,
In the image of God he made us,
And it was very good.**

Leader: Let us go out with joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills will sing;
the trees of the field will clap their hands.
And we will all shout:

**All: O LORD, our Lord,
You are good!**



1. Praise the Lord all praise and blessing. Rend-er to His mighty name.
 2. Stars above in brilliant glory. Sun that scatters wide its gold.



Thank Him ever for His goodness. Now and ever more the same.
 Birds aloft all join the chorus. ev-ery creature young and old.



Now and ever more the same. He cre-a - ted earth and heaven.
 ev-ery creature young and old. Hills and mountains raise their voices.



Deepest sea and all there in. Small est creature high-est being.
 Trees and forests 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.

Confession of Sin, from James 3:13-18

Leader: Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

All: **Father, forgive us our bitterly jealous and selfish hearts. We are full of impurity, hatred, and harsh words, lacking mercy, impartiality and sincerity. We have sown a harvest of sin and sorrow because of our hostility.**

Have mercy on us and forgive us our sins. Grant us your peace.

Silent time to pray and confess

1. Peace, per - fect peace. In our dark world of sin,
2. Peace, per - fect peace. With sor - rows surg - ing round,
3. Peace, per - fect peace. Our fu - ture's all un - known,
4. Peace, per - fect peace. Death clings to us and ours,

your blood, Lord Je - sus, whis - pers peace with - in. _____
be - neath your sha - dow, on - ly calm is found. _____ *to chorus*
but you we know, our Sav - ior on the throne. _____
yet you have van-quished death and all its powers. _____ *to chorus*

Chorus
Peace, per-fect peace, _____ it is e - nough. Lord Je - sus, grant us peace. _____


Peace, Perfect Peace: Words, Edward Bickersteth, 1875; Music and addl. words, Paul van der Bijl, 2020

Assurance of Pardon, *from Ephesians 2:13-14 and James 3:18*

Leader: But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

All: For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. Grant us a harvest of righteousness through your peace.

Chorus



Peace, per-fect peace,— it is e - nough. Lord Je-sus, grant us peace.—

The image shows a single staff of music in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of 12 measures. The first measure starts with a double bar line and repeat dots. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4-G4 (half), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), Bb3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), and F3 (quarter). The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Lessons from the Word

Gospel Lesson -
New Testament Lesson -

Matthew 6.19-21
1 Timothy 6.17-19

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

The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker
Don't Call Me Lovely, Ruth 1.19-2.7

So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?" She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you." Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

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 to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks,
for you alone are God, living and true,
dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever.

All: Fountain of all life and source of all goodness,
you made all things and fill them with your blessing;
you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Leader: You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care,
so that, in obedience to you, our creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures.

All: When our disobedience took us far from you,
you did not abandon us to the power of death.
In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you.

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

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day,
and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise.

All: Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven,
we glorify your name and lift our voices in joyful 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.

1. Now shall my in - ward joys a - rise, and burst in - to a song: Al -
2. God on His thir - sty Zi - ion hill, some mer - cy drops has thr'wn, And

migh - ty love in - spires my heart, and plea - sure tunes my tongue.
so - lemn oaths have bound His love to show - er sal - va - tion down.

The image shows a musical score for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first two lines of the lyrics, and the second system contains the remaining two lines. The lyrics are: '1. Now shall my inward joys arise, and burst into a song: Al - 2. God on His thir - sty Zi - ion hill, some mer - cy drops has thr'wn, And migh - ty love in - spires my heart, and plea - sure tunes my tongue. so - lemn oaths have bound His love to show - er sal - va - tion down.'

Now Shall My Inward Joys Arise, Words: Isaac Watts, 1709, Music: William Billings, 1770, Sacred Harp

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.

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.**

Deep on the palms of both his hands, He has engraved our names; His hands shall raise our ruined walls, and build our broken frame.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "Deep on the palms of both his hands, He has engraved our names; His hands shall raise our ruined walls, and build our broken frame." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

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.

Sermon Devotional Emails: You can sign up to get an email two times a week to help you reflect on and pray through the prior week's sermon text and Scripture lessons. To sign up, send us an email: devotional@covenantchicago.org.

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).

Balcony Seating: Beginning this week, Covenant is offering additional seating in the balcony for the 10 am service. Registration for balcony seating is separate from main floor seating; please only sit on the floor for which you have registered. To learn more or register, visit our registration page: <https://covenantchicago.churchcenter.com/registrations/events>.

Ushers Needed: Covenant is looking for additional volunteers to serve as ushers at one of our Sunday morning services. Ushers remain in the narthex at the start and end of service to greet attendees and answer any questions they may have. If you'd be willing to serve in this way, please contact Jenny Smith (jenny.smith@yale.com).

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. 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. God is my strong sal - va - tion; What foe have I to fear.
2. Place on our Christ re - li - ance; My soul, with cour - age wait;
3. In Christ his love a - bid - ing, no change my heart shall fear
4. To God, the ev - er glor - ious The Fa - ther and the Son,



In dark - ness and temp - ta - tion, My light, my help is near.
His Spi - rit my as - sur - ance, When faint and des - o - late.
and safe is such con - fid - ing, For noth - ing chang - es here.
And Spi - rit All vic - tor - ious, the ho - ly Three in One.



Tho' hosts en - camp a - round me, Firm in the fight I stand;
The cross of Christ will strength - en, His love my joy in - crease;
The storm may roar a - round me, my heart may low be laid;
God is my strong sal - va - tion, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore,



What ter - ror can con - found me, With God at my right hand?
Mer - cy my days will length - en; For He will give me peace.
but Christ is right be - side me, and he will give me aid.
Praise, glo - ry, a - do - ra - tion, Be now and e - ver more.



All glo - ry, laud and ho - nor to you, re - deem - er, king.

God is My Strong Salvation, Words: James Montgomery, 1822, Music, Melchior Teschner, 1584.

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

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Your email inquiry will be promptly answered.

Kaela McDougall

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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 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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