mystery & victory

St. Thomas the Apostle

"We do not know... how can we know the way?" Courageous master of the awkward question, You spoke the words the others dared not say And cut through their evasion and abstraction. Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith, You put your finger on the nub of things We cannot love some disembodied wraith, But flesh and blood must be our king of kings. Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint, Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh. Because He loved your awkward counter-point The Word has heard and granted you your wish. Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.

~ Malcolm Guite ~ cover design by Jon Skinner

3rd Sunday of Eastertide, April 14, 2024 Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago

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.

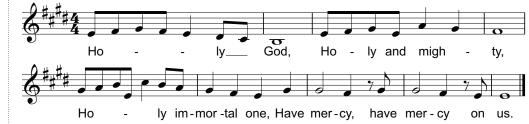
WELCOME

Pastor Dan Adamson

Prepare for worship

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.



Trisagion, Words, 1st Century prayer; Music, Fernando Ortega, 2011

GOD GATHERS US TO WORSHIP

EASTERTIDE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

All: O LORD, you have brought up my soul from the grave; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit. Sing praises to the LORD and give thanks to his holy name.

Leader: You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness

Al: I will sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!



Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee, Words: Henry van Dyke, 1907. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824

PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

- Leader: Our God and Father, we adore you and cannot be silent for through your Son you brought our souls up from the grave.
- All: By his dying, he destroyed death, and by his rising, you restore to us everlasting life. By your Spirit, make us glad with your presence.

Silent moment of adoration

Leader: Spirit of the living God, visit us with your presence this day, Like a rushing wind sweep all our barriers away. With tongues of fire set our hearts aflame. Spirit of the living God, visit us with your prsence this day.

Come, Ho - ly Spi rit. Come, Ho - ly Spi rit.__ -0 Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit, Α a - men. _ men.

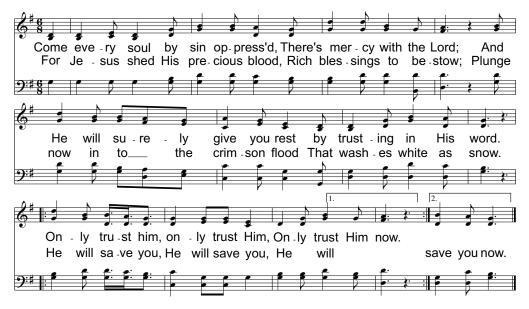
CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Take care, lest there be in you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. Exhort one another every day, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, and the Holy Spirit says:

"Today, if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts in rebellion."

All: Father, we are callous to the ways our sins affect us and those around us. Forgive us our unbelief, grant us the ears to hear the voice of your Spirit, and soften our doubting and rebellious hearts.



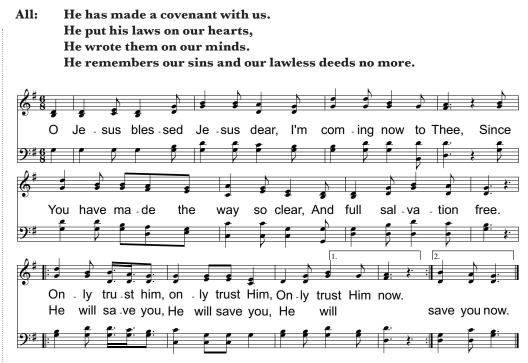
Come, Every Soul by Sin Oppressed, Words and Music by John Stockton, 1874, arr. by vdBijl

Silent time of confession

GOD FORGIVES AND CLEANSES US

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Christ sacrificed himself for our sins and the Holy Spirit bears witness to us.



LESSONS FROM THE WORD

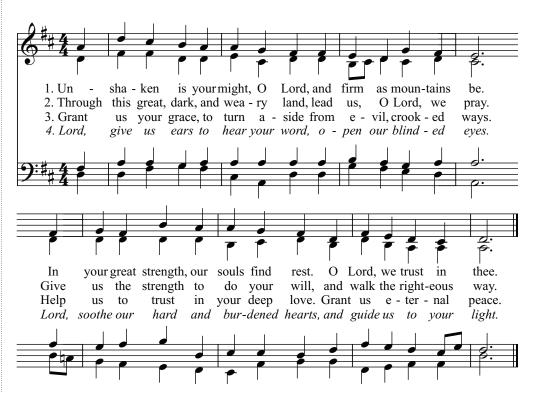
Old Testament Lesson - Psalm 125.1-2, *p.517* New Testament Lesson - 1 Peter 1.3-9, *p.1014*

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:12-13



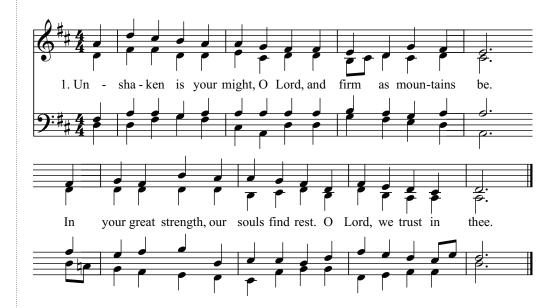
Psalm 125, adapted by Paul van der Bijl, 2023; music by Alexander Reinagle, 1836

THE WORD

Those Who Have Not Seen, John 20:24-29, p.907

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



COME WITH PEACE

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts

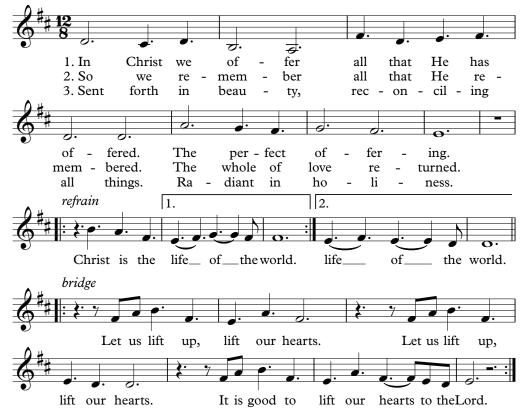
All: We lift them up to the Lord

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.



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

GOD COMMUNES WITH US

> Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

COME WITH THANKSGIVING

- Leader: It is good to lift our hearts to you, O Lord, and 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: We give you thanks because you are continually renewing your work of creation and transforming it to show your glory through resurrection.

Leader: With your touch you formed us from the dust of the earth. You raised your people from slavery in Egypt; you bound them to you through your covenant on Sinai; and you made yourself known to them in exile and the Promised Land.

All: In the cross of Jesus you take into yourself the scars of our sin, and in his resurrected body you invite us, as with Saint Thomas, to touch the wounds of your love.

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

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

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.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Grant also that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Song for Communion

You are welcome to join in song:

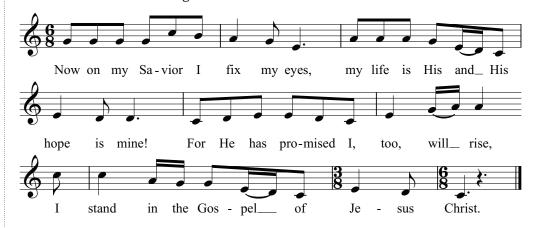


When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Words: Isaac Watts, 1707. Music: Lowell Mason, 1824.

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

Announcements, events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks



There is One Gospel, Jonny Robinson & Rich Thompson, St. Pauls Anglican Church Castle Hill, New South Wales, Australia, 2022

WITH BLESSING

Pastor Aaron Baker

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 Fellowship Hall and classrooms
- Nursery: Ages 0-4 (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: PreK-8th Grade (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: High School (Youth Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: From Gospel to Apocalypse (Library, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: In the Company of Jesus (Conference Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Covenant Life Class (All Saints Room, Lower Level)

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Jonathan Spalink, Jay and Sandra Zimmerman $^{(9:00)};$ Rich Lane, Mike and Tess FisherDubois $^{(11:15)}$

Ushers: Matthew Clay ^(9:00); Christie Kay, Michael Bergstrom ^(11:15)

Musicians: Paul van der Bijl, guitar vocals; Ema , Adriane Fink, piano; Paul David Young, electric guitar; Danny Medina, 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

From Gospel to Apocalypse: Join us for this 9-week class taught primarily by Olivia Stewart Lester (Associate Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity, Loyola University). Throughout this series, we'll be introduced to the full New Testament canon and 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 begins today in the Library with a discussion of the synoptic gospels.

In the Company of Jesus: Throughout the Gospels, Jesus teaches and cares for his disciples in unique ways. What can we learn from the way Jesus cares for those who are closest to him and what can it tell us about how he speaks to us? Join us for this 6-week class in the Conference Room. We'll look at stories centered on things like power, suffering, listening well, and fear with an eye towards learning what Jesus means to teach us as we seek to follow him. This week, Larissa Bossemeyer will teach on invitations to follow Jesus.

Covenant Life Class: Join us for our Covenant Life Class taught by the staff. This 6 week class is for those who are interested in learning more about the church and the things we care about most, starting with the gospel. This class is a requirement for those who wish to become members. Class will meet in the All Saints Room.will meet in the All Saints Room. For more information, contact Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

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, 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 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.

Pickleball at Covenant: Join others from Covenant for pickleball in the gym on some Saturdays from 9 to 11 am. All are welcome to join; instructors will be available if you're new to the sport. Sign up on our website (covenantchicago.org/pickleball/) for upcoming dates. Questions? Contact Ian Cull (iancull74@gmail.com).

Men's Retreat: Join others from Covenant on April 26-28 for our annual men's retreat at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, WI. We will finalize our numbers early this week, so register now to join: https://covenantchicago.org/events/mens-retreat/. Contact men@covenantchicago.org with questions.

Dinners Together: Covenant is planning to host small potluck dinners for 8-12 guests at homes throughout the city on May 11 and 18. If you'd be open to hosting at your home, please contact Pastor Dan (dadamson@ covenantchicago.org) to learn more.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Morning Sound Technicians Needed: If you are interested in helping run sound on occasional Sunday mornings, please contact PD Young (pauldavidy@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).

April Mercy Bin: For the month of April, Covenant is collecting donations to support New Moms, an organization working to change the future for young moms experiencing poverty and homelessness in Chicagoland by offering housing, job training, and family support. Current needs are for Enfamil baby formula (especially NeuroPro and Gentlease NeuroPro), disposable diapers (particularly sizes 4, 5, and 6) and diaper wipes. Donations will be collected in the Mercy Bin in the back of the Narthex throughout the month. Questions? Contact Deb Van Der Molen (dvmolen79@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/.

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 (lmgehrs@gmail.com). Most volunteers serve once every other month.

Haiti Support Dinner: Covenant, alongside our local sister churches, has a longstanding relationship with ESMI to support their ministry work and care for orphans in rural Haiti. On Sunday, April 28 at 5 pm, we're invited to join ESMI Director Dony St Germain for a support dinner at a local Haitian restaurant on the northside of Chicago. To learn more or RSVP, please contact Chuck Michalek (michalekchas@aol.com).

NEWS AND UPDATES

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.

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).

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).



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, Joshua 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

