

"... for they shall see God" Matthew 5.8

Christ risen was rarely recognized by sight.

They had to get beyond the way he looked.

Evidence stronger than his voice and face and footstep waited to grow in them, to guide their groping from despair, their stretching beyond belief.

We are as blind as they until the opening of our deeper eyes shows us the hands that bless and break our bread, until we finger wounds that tell our healing, or witness a miracle of fish dawn-caught after our long night of empty nets. Handling his Word, we feel his flesh, his bones, and hear his voice calling our early morning name.

~ Luci Shaw

~ cover design by Jon Skinner

4th Sunday of Eastertide, April 21, 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

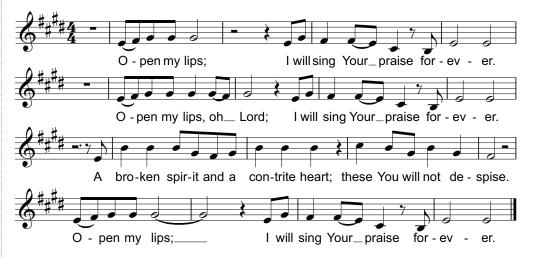
Pastor Dan Adamson

Prepare for worship

Psalm 51:15-17

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Amen.

GOD GATHERS US TO WORSHIP



Open My Lips, (Psalm 51), words and music Fernando Ortega, 2006

EASTERTIDE CALL TO WORSHIP

from Revelation 1 and 5

Leader: Praise to the Risen Christ!

All: To the one who is, and who was, and who is to come.

Leader: Praise to the Risen Lord!

Al: To the firstborn from the dead, and ruler of all the earth.

Leader: Praise to the Risen Christ!

All: To the one who has freed us from our sins by his blood, Praise to the Risen Lord!



Easter Morn, Words. Charles Wesley, vs. 1, David Ivey, vs.2-4, 1988, Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708, Sacred Harp tune

PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

Silent moment of adoration

Dear Father, we thank you for gathering us here in worship and we adore you. You were, and are, and ever more shall be. You have freed us from our sins by the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, and we stand in the warm light of His resurrection.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, come and visit us with your presence today. Amen.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



GOD MAKES COVENANT WITH US

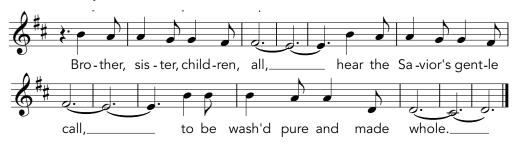
There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of you calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all in all. - Ephesians 4:4-6

Raymond Clive Hazelwood, son of Owen and Kaalyn Hazelwood

2nd service

Prayer of Congregational Blessing:

All: Ever-living God, in your mercy you promised to be not only our God but also the God of our children. We thank you for receiving Raymond by baptism. Keep him always in your love. Guide him as he grows in faith. Protect him in all the dangers and temptations of life. May he be a faithful disciple of your son Jesus Christ to his life's end. In Christ's name, Amen.



Ocean of Mercy, by Paul van der Bijl, 2006

Leader: And Jesus said: "Come to me, all who are weary 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."

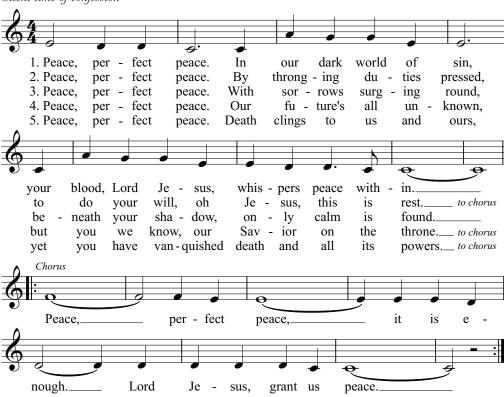
GOD **FORGIVES** AND **CLEANSES** US

All: Gracious God,

we are weary and our sins and anxieties are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

Forgive us our sins and grant us rest and peace for our souls.

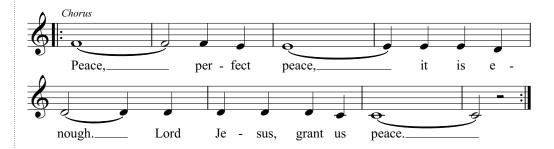
Silent time of confession



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

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. James 5:16 Leader: By faith we believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

All: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

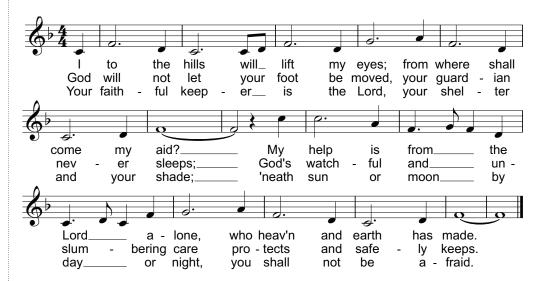


Old Testament Lesson - Psalm 8, p.450 Gospel Lesson - Mark 9.30-32, p.845

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

All: Thanks be to God.



Psalm 121, Words, Psalter, 1912; Music, attr. Stephen Jenks 1832, arr. vanderBijl, 2013

THE WORD Pastor Aaron Baker

Christ, the Firstfruits, 1 Corinthians 15:20–28, p.961

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸ When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.



COME WITH PEACE

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts

GOD COMMUNES WITH US

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. We have come to join in wor ship And a dore the Lord our God.
- 2. See them ga-ther all a round you, Those He_ bought at such a cost;
- 3. Let us_love our God su-preme-ly;_ Let us_ love each o-ther, too.



Let us_come in prayer, ex - pec - ting_ God to_speak His migh - ty Word. See the_wea - ry, see the_hur - ting, See the_lone - ly, see the lost. Let us_care for all His_peo - ple_ Till our_God makes all things new.



All is vain un - less the Spi - rit Of the Ho - ly One comes down. Be His hand, and touch the nee - dy; Be His gos - pel, let it sound! Christ will call us home to Hea-ven. At His ban-quet we'll sit down;



Christ - ians_ pray and ho - ly__ man - na_ Will be_ sho-wered all a-round.

Be His_ bo - dy, and sweet man - na_ Will be_ sho-wered all a-round.

Christ Him-self will rise and_ serve us_ Li-ving_man - na all a-round.

We Have Come to Join in Worship, words: Ken Bible; music, William Moore, 1825

Leader: It is a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God of glory. 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.

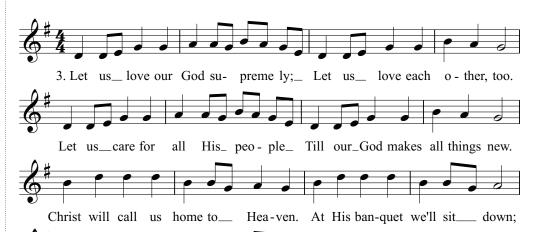
All: You formed us as your people to trust in you, to root our life in yours, and to bear fruit without end. When we were parched by sin and thirsting for righteousness, you sent your Son and let us drink of your forgiving mercies.

Leader: So you made us like trees planted by streams of water whose leaves do not wither. By the power of your Holy Spirit you raised your Son from death to life, the firstfruits of those who have died.

All: Trusting in your all-sufficient ways, your church is rooted in you and continues to bear the fruits of resurrection.

Leader: And so with your people on earth and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join the hymn of glory:

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.



Christ Him-self will rise and_ serve us__ Li-ving_man - na all a-round.

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:



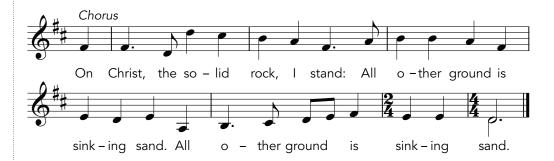
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less, Words: Edward Mote, 1834, Music: Eric Rose, Redemption Presbyterian Church, Tinley Park, IL, 2020

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 Pastor Dan Adamson

Announcements, events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks

WITH JOY from 2 Peter 3: 18

GOD SENDS US

Leader: As we enter this week,

May you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All: To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.



O For a Thousand, Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Carl Gläser, 1828, refrain and arr. by Devin Pogue, Christ Church Highland Park, 2013

WITH BLESSING

Pastor Aaron Baker

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 (Fellowship Hall, 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: Mark Lester, David and Michele Dillon (9:00); Ian Troll, Mark and Ranya Faasse (11:15) Ushers: Matt Ver Steeg (9:00); Jon Skinner, Paul Kamp (11:15)

Musicians: Paul van der Bijl, guitar vocals; Ema Sowinski, upright bass; Brian Riggs, banjo, classical guitar; Drew Goodwin, viola; Paul David Young, 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: In this series, primarily taught by Olivia Stewart Lester (Associate Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity, Loyola University), we'll look at the full New Testament canon and see 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. Today, Olivia will teach on Luke-Acts. Class meets in the Fellowship Hall.

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 in the Conference Room this week as Larissa Bossemeyer teaches on fear and faithfulness.

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).

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.

Elementary Family Pizza Party: Do you have elementary aged children? You and your family are invited to a Covenant Family Pizza Party on May 5th following the 2nd Service in the Fellowship Hall! Following lunch, there will be organized games for kids as well as a space for parents to fellowship and connect. Contact Ian Troll (ian@covenantchicago.org) to sign up.

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).

Sermon Text Next Week: 1 Corinthians 15.50-58



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

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covenantchicago.org

