

Death Be Not Proud

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so; For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me. From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be, Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow, And soonest our best men with thee do go, Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery. Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men, And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell, And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then? One short sleep past, we wake eternally And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

- ~ John Donne, 1633
- ~ cover design by Jon Skinner

5th Sunday of Eastertide, April 28, 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.

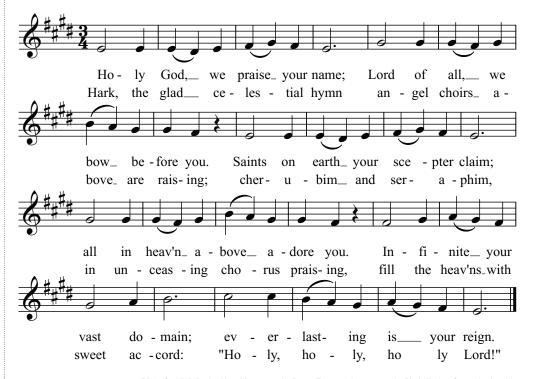
WELCOME

Larissa Bossemeyer

Prepare for worship

Psalm 99:1-3

The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
The Lord is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise your great and awesome name!
Holy is he!



Holy God We Praise Your Name, words, Ignaz Franz, 4th cent.; music, Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774

GOD GATHERS US TO WORSHIP Leader: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

All: Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Leader: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

Al: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD.

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

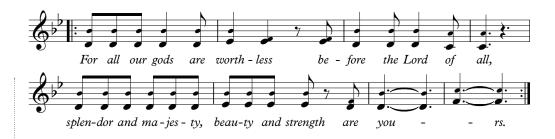
All: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.



Psalm 96, Music, Paul van der Bijl 2018

Leader: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

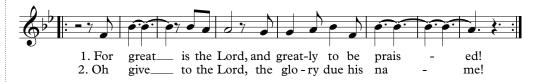
All: Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.



PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

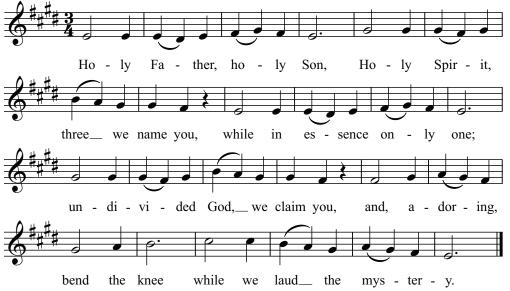
Leader: Our Lord and Father, we adore you. All the idols and distractions that fight for our attention are worth nothing here before your splendor, majesty, beauty and strength. The seas roar and the forests sing a new song:

All: Splendor and majesty, beauty and strength are yours! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!



Silent moment of adoration

Leader: Father, by the power your Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus visit us with your presence today. Amen.



Leader: Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

GOD FORGIVES AND CLEANSES US All: Gracious and merciful God,

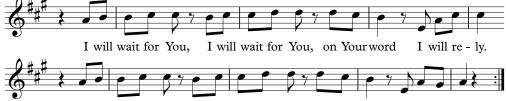
Forgive us for we harm our bodies without and within by failing to see that they belong to you. Grant us the grace to know that by your Spirit's power you are making us a new creation.



- 1. Out of the depths I cry to You, in dark-est plac-es I will call.
- 2. Were You to count my sin-ful ways, how could I come be-fore Your throne.
- 3. So put your hope in God a-lone. Take cour-age in His power to save,



In-cline Your ear to me a-new, and hear my cry for mer-cy, Lord. Yet full for-give-ness meets my gaze, I stand re-deemed by grace a - lone. com-plete - ly and for - ev - er won by Christ's e - merg-ing from the grave.



I will wait for You, my soul waits for You, for Your love is my de-light.

Silent time of confession

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.
Proverbs 28:13

Leader: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself.



Psalm 130, words and music by Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker, Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2018, Christ Covenant Church, Atlanta, GA.

LESSONS FROM THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson - Isaiah 25.6-9, p.586 Gospel Lesson - John 11.20-27, p.897

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

All: Thanks be to God.



THE WORD Pastor Aaron Baker

We Shall All Be Changed, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, p.962

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

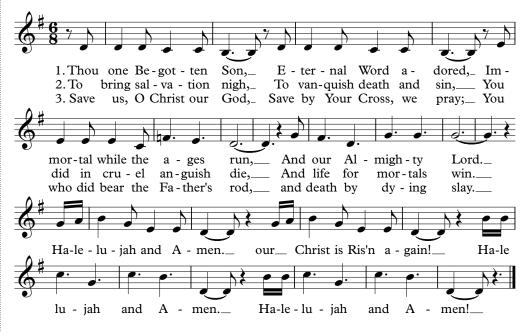
"Death is swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.



Hallelujah and Amen, Words from the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 3rd. cent.; Music: Paul van der Bijl, Easter, 2017

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.

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 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.



Come with Your peace, with Your in-vi-ta-tion. Bindus to-ge-ther in ho-ly_love.

Trinity Song, by Sandra McCracken, Westside Anglican Fellowship, Nashville, TN, 2016

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.

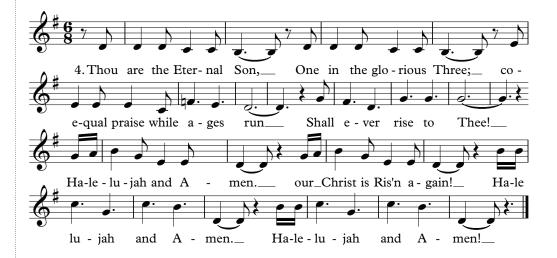
All: Blessed above all are you, Lord God of creation, for in the beginning you formed the earth in magnificent splendor and from humble dust you raised up a man made in your image.

Leader: You brought forth your Adam, together with Eve, from earthly dust to human life. From the beginning you sought the very people you had made, yearning to share your life with them.

All: When your people no longer sought you with their whole hearts, in the fullness of your love you raised up another man in your image. Your Christ of heaven came among your people of dust, to raise us up out of the dust of sin, that in our earthly life we might bear the image of heaven.

Leader: And so we join our voices with angels and archangels, praising your name and joining their unending 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.



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:



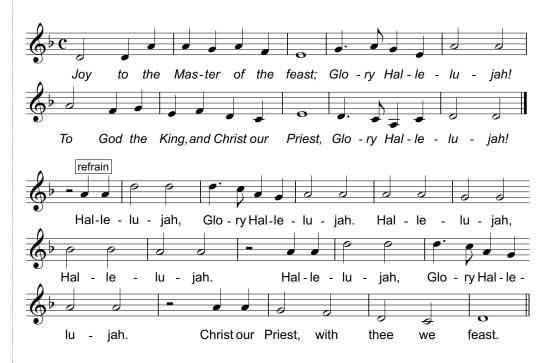
Jesus! We Bow Before Thy Feet, Words: Isaac Watts, 1700s, Music, The Sacred Harp, 1850, arr. vdbijl, 2014

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 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

Leader: As we enter this week, thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Therefore, let us be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord our labor is not in vain.

GOD **SENDS** US



Your Labor is Not in Vain, Wendell Kimbrough, Church of the Apostles, Fairhope, AL, 2017

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 (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: Cora Passis, Maribeth Shover, Sara Ellison (9:00); Amy Lewis, Rachel Salsedo, Laurie Baker (11:15)

Ushers: Leslie Lucas (9:00); Nathaniel Salsedo (11:15)

Musicians: Paul van der Bijl, guitar vocals; Matthew Siefert, bass; Adèle-Marie Buis, oboe; Adriane Fink, piano; Devon Spencer, vocals; 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: 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, Matthew Clay will teach on John and the Johannine epistles. 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 Linda Gehrs will help us look at the way Jesus taught the disciples.

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. 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.

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 like to join a dinner, please contact Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org) to learn more. You can also sign up on one of the flyers at the Welcome Table.

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

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.

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: Luke 12:13-34



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, Ioshua 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:
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:
Trayer 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

