

Ascension

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory Whilst we were rooted still in time and place As earth became a part of Heaven's story And heaven opened to his human face. We saw him go and yet we were not parted He took us with him to the heart of things The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings, Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness, Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight, Whilst we our selves become his clouds of witness And sing the waning darkness into light, His light in us, and ours in him concealed, Which all creation waits to see revealed.

~ Malcolm Guite

7th Sunday of Eastertide, Asension Sunday, May 12, 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.

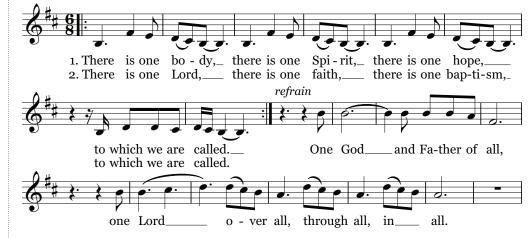
WELCOME

Prepare for worship

Pastor Dan Admason

Ephesians 4:1-6

Dear God, we gather in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as we were called to the one hope that belongs to our call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

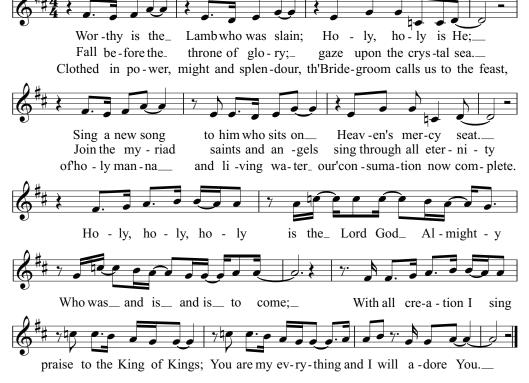


Ephesians 4, music by Steve Williamson, Church of the Resurrection, Wheaton, 2011

ASCENSION CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

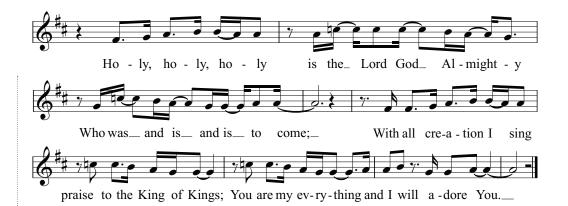
All: Then every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, sang:



Revelation Song, Words and Music: Jennie Lee Riddle, 2004. verse 2-3 by vdBijl, 2010

Leader: To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be praise and honor and glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

All: Jesus ascended in triumph to his heavenly throne. There he hears our prayers, pleads our cause before the Father, and rules the world.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him. Come let us worship and bow down.



PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

Leader: Holy Father, thank you for the ascension of your Son, Jesus Christ, and that he is present with us now, ruling in peace and justice through your Holy Spirit.

All: In the majesty of your reigning Son, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, visit us with your presence today. Amen

Silent moment of adoration

Choral: Lo! The incarnate God, ascended, Pleads the merit of his blood; Venture on him, venture wholly, Let no other trust intrude: None but Jesus, None but Jesus, None but Jesus Can do helpless sinners good.

> Lo! The incarnate God, ascended, Enters now the heavenly realms, Angels singing, "Alleluia" As they receive their Lord and King. Maranatha, maranatha, Maranatha, maranatha! We on earth still sing: Come, O come Lord Jesus, come.

Covenant Choir, God Ascended, words, Joseph Hart, 1759; music, Sarah Majorins, 2012

CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Jesus says, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Jesus, you are the life of the world. Forgive us our tendency to sustain ourselves and find our meaning in anything but you and your grace and mercy.

Silent time of confession

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. James 5:16

GOD

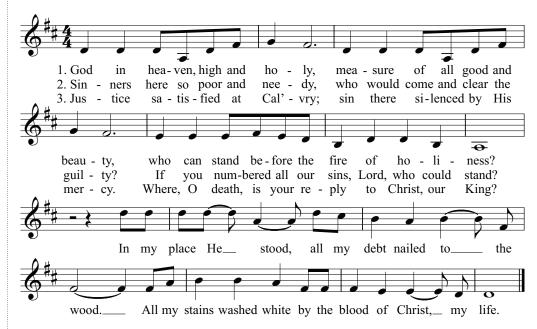
AND

US

FORGIVES

CLEANSES

All:



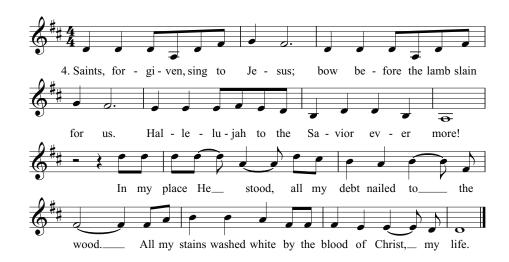
In My Place, Words and Music by Matt Damico, Kenwood Baptist Church, Louisville, KY, 2019

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

adap. from John 6:54-69

Leader: Jesus says to us, "I have ascended to where I was before and the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. Whoever finds their sustenance in me has eternal life and I will raise them up on the last day."

All: Lord, you have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God. We find our life in you.



LESSONS FROM THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson - Daniel 7:13-14, *p.745* Gospel Lesson - John 16:5-11, *p.902*

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

> Choral: Maranatha, maranatha, Maranatha, maranatha! We on earth still sing: Come, O come Lord Jesus, come.

> > Covenant Choir

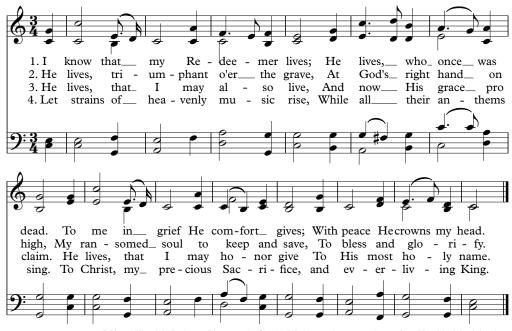
THE WORD

He Was Lifted Up, Acts 1:1-11, p.909

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."



I Know That My Redeemer Lives, words, Charles Wesley, ca 1700s; music arr. from Handel's Messiah, 1741

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.

All Sing:

To Him who is able To keep you from falling To Him to Him to Him To Him to Him to Him

We are standing in His presence With our garments clean and white All glory honor power majesty to Jesus Christ

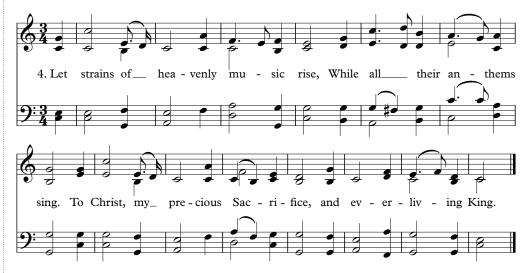
Jude 23-24, by Sandra McCracken, 2016, Westside Anglican Fellowship, Nashville, TN.

GOD COMMUNES WITH US

> God is the host of this family meal. We come to his table unified in peace and offer a communal prayer of deep gratitude for all that He has done through his Son.

COME WITH THANKSGIVING

- 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: Glorious God, in Moses, the prophets, and the psalms you showed your purpose for your people and your love for your world.
- Leader: In Jesus you fulfilled your promises and opened to us your heart. In his passion and death we saw the consequences of our rejection and the depth of your yearning.
- All: Yet you raised Jesus from the tomb. In his resurrection you invite us into the company of your eternal joy, and in his ascension on high you seal as complete his work among us.
- Leader: So with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we praise you forever, singing:
- 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:

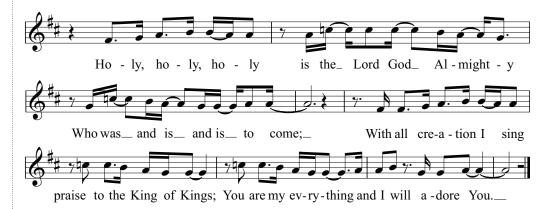


Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands, Words Charles Spurgeon and Isaac Watts, 1866; Music, vanderBijl, 2010

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

	WITH	BELIEF	Heidelberg Catechism (1563)
	Leader:	What is your only comfort in life and death?	
GOD SENDS US	All:	That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head.	
	Leader:	How does Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross be	enefit us?
	All:	Through Christ's death our old nature is crucified, put to death, and buried with Him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer reign in us, but that we may offer ourselves to Him as a sacrifice of thankfulness.	
	Leader:	How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?	
	All: <i>First</i> , by His resurrection He has overcome death, so that He could make us share in the righteousness which He had obtained for us b His death.		-
		Second, by His power we too are raised up to a new life.	
		<i>Third</i> , Christ's resurrection is to us a sure pl resurrection.	ledge of our glorious
	Leader:	How does Christ's ascension into heaven benefit us?	
	All:	<i>First</i> , he is our Advocate in heaven before his Father.	
		<i>Second</i> , since Jesus, in His flesh and blood, is in heaven, this is a guarantee for us, His members, that we too will be taken up in our flesh and blood to join Him.	
		<i>Third</i> , he sends us his Spirit as a guarantee by whose power we seek those things which a where Christ sits at the right hand of God, an	

15

WITH JOY



Hail the Day, Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Welsh hymn melody, 1837

WITH BLESSING

Pastor Dan Adamson

WELCOME TO COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TODAY AT COVENANT

1st Service, 9:00am

Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

- 2nd service, 11:15am
- 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: Alvssa and Brent Blankenship, Jenna Hammond ^(9:00); Christie Kay, Karvn Herndon, Shawn Bandel (11:15)

Welcome Table: Peggy Adamson (9:00)

Musicians: Paul van der Bijl, guitar, vocals; Paul Kamp, bass; Adèle-Marie Buis, oboe; Adriane Fink, piano; Erica Norman, vocals; Paul David Young, electric guitar, keys, 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, Olivia will teach on the Pauline 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 Patrick and Jenny Nicole Fisher teach on the disciples' bids for power.

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.

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).

Common Ground Volunteers: Covenant is looking for additional volunteers to help with coffee and snacks for Common Ground. Volunteers help with either setup (during the 9:00 am service) or clean up (during the 11:15 service), as well as helping during Common Ground to replenish coffee as needed. Most volunteers serve once a month. If you'd be interested, please contact Larissa Bossemeyer (lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org).

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

One Service Sundays: Mark your calendar for our one service Sundays this summer at 10:15. On May 26, June 30, July 7, August 25 and September 1, we'll have one service at 10:15. There will be no Common Ground on these weeks. On June 30 and August 25, we'll have a cookout after the service.

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.



Sermon Text Next Week: Acts 2:1-13

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

