



the  
Psalms  
of Ascents



11th Sunday of Pentecost | August 6, 2023



COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*of Nashville Tennessee*

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Nashville experienced a mass shooting on March 27. In the wake of this, they decided to spend the summer reading the Psalms of Ascents together.

We've walked alongside them this summer in these same Psalms as a way to remember our sisters and brothers in Nashville, and show solidarity with them as they seek God's healing and mercy.

Children's programming is available during both services on the lower level, see page 15 for details.

Large Print orders of worship and devices to improve hearing are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Green for the Season of Pentecost  
Green represents growth, bountifulness, hope,  
and the victory of life over death in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## Welcome

Silent moment to prepare for worship

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. Amen.

1 All cre - a - tures of our God and King, lift up your  
2 Thou ru - shing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that  
3 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship  
voice and with us sing Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou  
sail in heaven a - long, O praise him, O lu - ia! O  
him in hum - ble - ness, O praise him, O lu - ia! Praise,  
bur - ning sun with gol - den beam, Thou sil - ver moon with sof - ter gleam,  
ri - sing morn in praise re - joice, Ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice:  
praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One,  
O praise him, O praise him, Al - le -  
lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

All Creatures of Our God and King, Words: Francis of Assisi, 1225. Music: 17th Century German

# Call to Worship

from Genesis 1, Isaiah 55, and Psalm 8

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

All: **God said "let there be light" and it was good.**

Leader: God said "let there be land and water" and it was good.

All: **God made us in his image, and it was very good.**

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

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



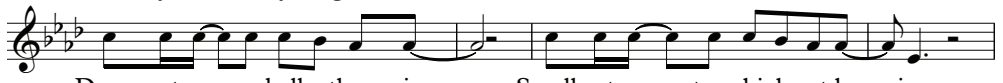
1. Praise the Lord all praise and bless - ing. Rend - er to His migh - ty name. \_\_\_  
2. Stars a - bove in bril - liant glo - ry. Sun that scat - ters wide its gold. \_\_\_



Thank Him ev - er for His good - ness. Now and ev - er mo - re the same. \_\_\_  
Birds a - loft all join the chor - us. ev - ery crea - ture young and old. \_\_\_



Now and ev - er mo re the same. \_\_\_ He cre - a - ted ear - th and hea - ven.  
ev - ery crea - ture young and old. \_\_\_ Hills and moun - tains raise their voi - ces.



Deep - est sea and all there - in. \_\_\_ Small est cre - ture high - est be - ing.  
Trees and for - ests clap their hands. \_\_\_ E - ven stones will not be si - lent.



Let your an - thems now be - gin. \_\_\_ Let your an - thems now be gin. \_\_\_  
Sing his praise through - out the lands. \_\_\_ Sing his praise through out the lands.

Chorus



Ev - 'ry thing that You \_\_\_ have made is beau - ti - ful.



Ev - 'ry thing that You \_\_\_ have made is good. \_\_\_

# Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

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prayer of adoration

Leader: Holy Father, everything that you have made is beautiful and good and we are overwhelmed with joy that you have made us in your image. We thank you and with all of creation sing of your glory.

All: Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
**visit us with your glorious presence today. Amen.**

*silent moment of meditation*

Ev - 'ry thing that You\_\_ have made is beau - ti - ful.

Ev - 'ry thing that You\_\_ have made is good.\_\_

The image shows two staves of musical notation in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics. The lyrics are: "Ev - 'ry thing that You\_\_ have made is beau - ti - ful." and "Ev - 'ry thing that You\_\_ have made is good.\_\_". The melody is simple and contemplative, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

# Prayer of Lament, *from Psalm 13 and Psalm 123*

Leader: O Lord, we plead with you:

**All: Hear this lament and prayer -**

Leader: How long, O LORD? Will you forget us forever? How long will you hide your face from your suffering children? How long must we wrestle with our thoughts and every day have sorrow in our heart?

**All: Have mercy on us and those who suffer, O God.**

Leader: To you, we lift up our eyes and wait till you have mercy on us.

**All: Have mercy on us, O Lord. We've had more than enough, have mercy on us.**

To You, we lift our eyes O Lord,  
en - throned on high a - dored, to You we cry:  
We've had more than e - nough of ha - tred and pain;  
We've had more than e - nough of scorn and dis - dain;  
We've had more than e - nough, have mer - cy on us, Oh, Lord,  
have mer - cy on us

*Psalm 123, by Paul van der Bijl, 2023 - in memory of those slain at Covenant Presbyterian Nashville*

*moment of silent prayer*

## Confession of Sin, *from Psalm 79*

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Leader: How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever?  
Will your jealousy burn like fire?  
Do not remember our iniquities;  
Help us, O God of our salvation,  
deliver us, and atone for our sins,  
for your name's sake!

### Silent time to pray and confess

## Assurance of Pardon, *adapted from Hebrews 10*

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Leader: Christ sacrificed himself for our sins and the Holy Spirit bears witness to us.  
He remembers our sins and our lawless deeds no more.



The musical score is written on a single staff in 3/4 time. It consists of seven lines of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "To You, we lift our eyes O Lord, enthroned on high adored, to You we cry: You are more than enough. We wait on Your love, You are more than enough, Great Father above, You are more than enough have mercy on us, Oh, Lord, You're more than enough." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and slurs.

To You, we lift our eyes O Lord,  
en - throned on high a - dored, to You we cry:  
You are more than e - nough. We wait on Your love,  
You are more than e - nough, Great Fath - er a - bove,  
You are more than e - nough have mer - cy on us, Oh, Lord,  
— You're more than e - nough.

# Lessons from the Word

read by Rachael Russell ①, Taylor Nesse ②

New Testament Lesson - 2 Corinthians 1.3-7, p.964  
Gospel Lesson - Luke 6.20-21, p.862

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

1. Our mouths, they were filled, filled\_ with laugh - ter;  
2. The na - tions will say, "he has done great things!"

Our tongues, they were loosed, loosed\_ with joy.  
The na - tions will sing songs\_ of joy

Re-store us, O Lord! Re-store us, O Lord!

*refrain*

Al-though we are weep - ing, Lord, help us keep sow - ing  
the seeds of Your King - dom for the day You will reap\_ them!  
Your sheaves we will car - ry; Lord, please do not tar - ry!  
All those who sow weep-ing will go out with songs of\_ joy!

Psalm 126, Isaac Wardell, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, 2015



# The Word

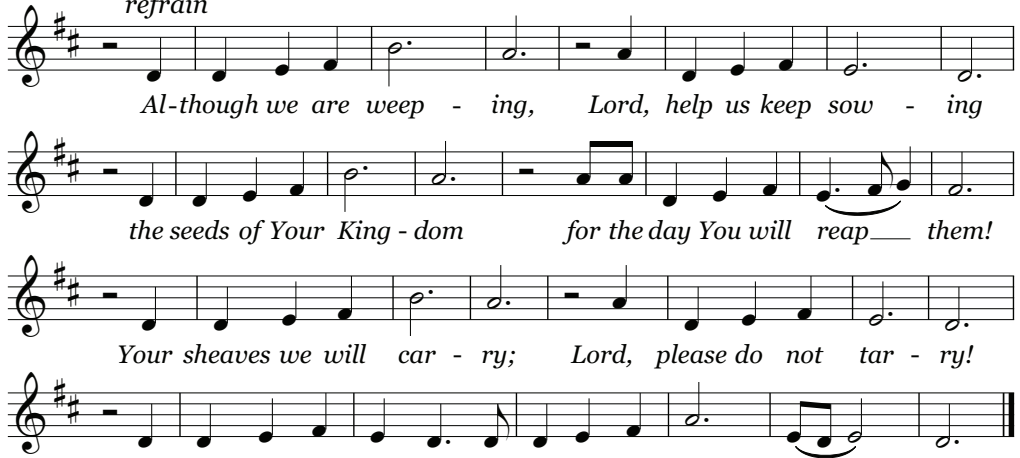
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Pastor Aaron Baker  
Joy, Psalm 126 p.517

A Song of Ascents.

- <sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
<sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for them."  
<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad.  
<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like streams in the Negeb!  
<sup>5</sup> Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!  
<sup>6</sup> He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.

All: *refrain*



Al-though we are weep - ing, Lord, help us keep sow - ing  
the seeds of Your King - dom for the day You will reap — them!  
Your sheaves we will car - ry; Lord, please do not tar - ry!  
All those who sow weep-ing will go out with songs of — joy!

# Sacrament of Communion

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2 Corinthians 13:11-14: 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. All the saints greet you.

Leader: The Lord be with you

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts

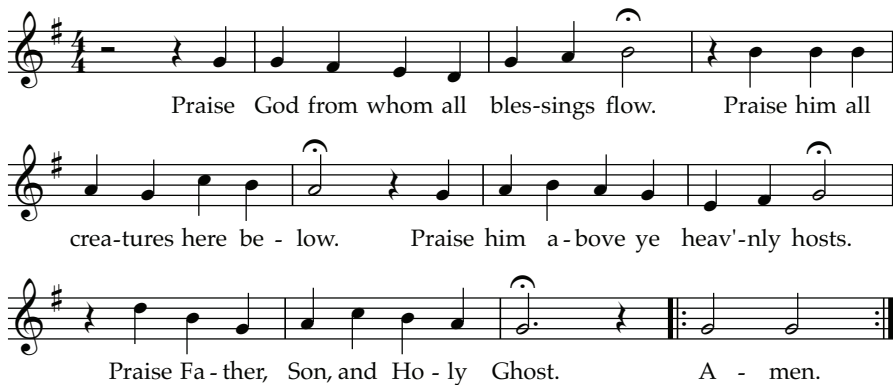
**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*Greet each other in the name of Christ*

*Giving back to God a portion of what he's already given us is an important part of the Christian life. The bread and wine we use in communion are a picture of the gifts that God has given us, offered back to him as an act of worship. You can offer your resources back to God in support of the work of the church by placing your offering in the boxes in the back on the way out. You can also give online at [covenantchicago.org/give](http://covenantchicago.org/give), use the QR code on page 15, or text a donation amount to 84321.*



Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow. Praise him all  
crea-tures here be - low. Praise him a - bove ye heav'-nly hosts.  
Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, Music, German Psalter, 1561

# The Great Thanksgiving, by Samuel Wells, vicar, St. Martin-in-the-fields, Church of England, 2016

Leader: As we approach your table, grant us the peace with each other that we find in you so that we can come to this feast united in love. Accept now our offerings of bread, wine and gifts to you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to the work of your kingdom.

**All: Your Spirit brooded over the waters  
before the foundation of the world.**

Leader: Your pillar of fire led your people to freedom  
through the waters of the Red Sea.

**All: Your son Jesus came to his disciples  
across the stormy waves of Galilee.**

Leader: In his agonizing death we see how far we stray from you,  
and in his resurrection we see how you draw us close  
despite our betrayals and failures.

**All: We long for the day when all the saints adore you,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea,**

Leader: 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.**

Ev - 'ry thing that You have made is beau - ti - ful.

Ev - 'ry thing that You have made is good.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. The second staff continues the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

# Distribute the Bread & Cup

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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, and seek strength to live more faithfully for him.

## **Silent prayers for reflection**

### *Prayer for those taking communion*

*Lord Jesus, your perfect life, your death and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come. As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the joy and glory of knowing and serving you. I come to this table on the basis of your merit only and not my own. As you have completely and fully offered yourself for me, I now completely and fully offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. Amen.*

### *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.*

## Music for Communion

You are welcome to join in song:



1. I\_\_\_ hear the Sa - vior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small,
2. Lord,\_\_\_ now in - deed I find Thy pow'r and Thine a - lone,
3. For\_\_\_ noth - ing good have I Where - by Thy grace to claim;
4. And\_\_\_ now com-plete in Him My robe His right - e ness,



Child of weak-ness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all."  
Can\_\_\_ change the le - per's spots And\_ melt the heart of stone.  
I'll\_\_\_ wash my gar-ments white In the blood of Cal-v'ry's Lamb.  
Close\_ shel-tered 'neath His side, I\_\_\_ am di - vine - ly blest.

### *Refrain*



Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe;



Sin had left a crim-son stain, He washed it white as snow.

### *Bridge*



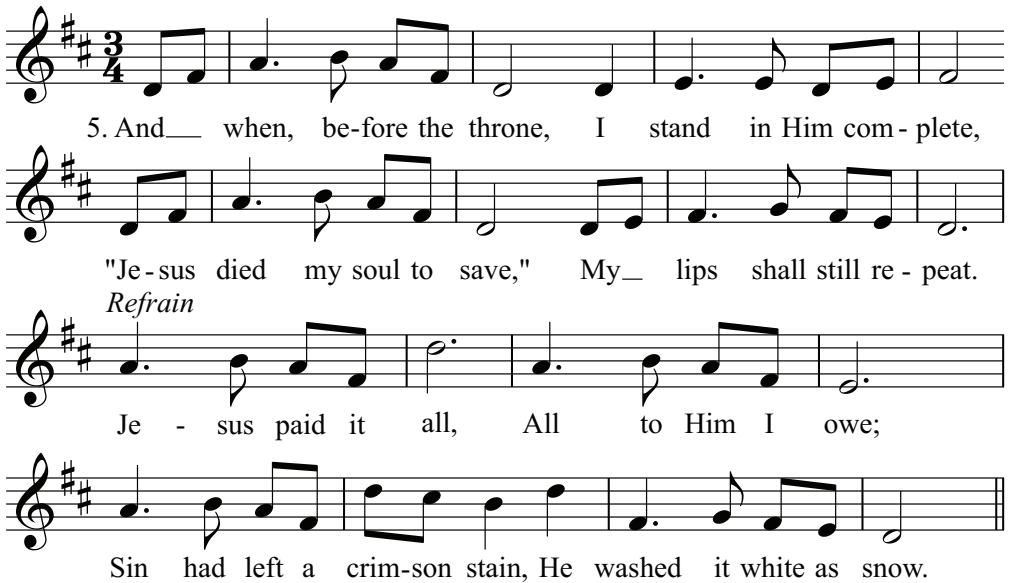
O praise the One who paid my debt and rais'd this life up from the dead.

*Jesus Paid it All, Words: Elvina M. Hall, 1865; Music: John T. Grape 1868, Bridge, Kristian Stanfill, Passion City Church, Atlanta, GA., 2012*

## 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.**



5. And when, be-fore the throne, I stand in Him com- plete,  
"Je- sus died my soul to save," My lips shall still re - peat.  
*Refrain*  
Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crim-son stain, He washed it white as snow.

## The Work of the People

Romans 12:4-6, For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

### ***in community***

Events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks.

## Go With Joy

All:



1. Come, peo- ple of the ris - en King, who de- light to bring him  
2. Come, those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those weep - ing through the  
3. Come, young and old from ev - 'ry land, men and wom - en of the

praise. Come all, and tune your hearts to sing to the morn - ing star of  
night. Come, those who tell of bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the  
faith. Come, those with full or emp - ty hands; find the rich - es of his

grace. From the shift - ing sha - dows of the earth, we will  
fight. For his per - fect love will nev - er change, and his  
grace. O - ver all the world his peo - ple sing; shore to

lift our eyes to him, where stead - y arms of mer - cy reach to —  
mer - cies nev - er cease, but fol - low us through all our days with the  
shore, we hear them call the truth that cries through ev - 'ry age: "Our —

gath - er child - ren in. Re - joice, re - joice! Let ev - 'ry tongue re -  
cer - tain hope of peace. God is all in all."

joice! One heart, one voice; Oh, Church of Christ, re - joice!

*Come People of the Risen King, by Keith & Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend, 2001*

## Benediction

Leader: *Romans 15:5-7 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

# Welcome to Covenant Presbyterian Church

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## TODAY AT COVENANT

### 1st Service, 9am

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level
- Children's Worship: preK-5th Grade, lower level

### 2nd service, 11:15am

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

### Common Ground, 10:15am

- Coffee and snacks available in the courtyard

## Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Jenna Hammond, Margret-Ann and Nick Natsis (9:00); Linda Gehrs, James Leach, Hyunseob Kim (11:15)

Ushers: Ryan von Drehle (9:00); Laura Bagnoli (11:15)

Musicians: Mike Middleton, bass, vocals; Dave Jarvis, saxophone, Cassidy Miller, vocals; Devon Spencer, vocals, James Gay, keys; Paul van der Bijl, guitar, vocals; Liam van der Bijl, sound technician.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

**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.**

**One Service Sundays:** We'll have one service at 10:15 am on August 27 and September 3. There will be no Common Ground on these days. Childcare will be available during service for children birth through 5th grade. Plan to join us for an all-church cookout after service on August 27.

The logo for 'Breakthrough' features the word 'Break' in white on a green rectangular background, followed by 'through' in green on a white background. A small orange starburst is positioned above the 'h' in 'through'.

**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](mailto:breakthrough@covenantchicago.org) for more information or sign up for upcoming dates on our website: <https://covenantchicago.org/events/breakfast-at-breakthrough/>.

**Summer Common Ground:** Join us for coffee and snacks between the services in the courtyard. Classes and Sunday Schools for kids and adults will return on September 10.

**August 27 Cookout:** Covenant will host an all-church cookout on August 27 at 11:30, following one service at 10:15. In order to make our cookout a success, we need many volunteers to help with setting up the grassy lot, assisting with food prep, and cleaning up afterwards. If you'd be willing to help either before, after or during the cookout, please contact Larissa Bossemeyer ([lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org](mailto:lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org)).

**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](mailto:dadamson@covenantchicago.org)).



**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/](http://covenantchicago.org/pickleball/)) for upcoming dates: August 19 and 26. Questions? Contact Jenna Hammond ([jenaomia@gmail.com](mailto:jenaomia@gmail.com)).

**Save the Date: Women's Retreat.** Mark your calendars for our annual women's retreat on October 20-22. This year, we'll return to the Dekoven Center in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Look for additional details and registration in September. Interested in helping to plan the Fall Retreat or other women's events throughout the year? Contact [women@covenantchicago.org](mailto:women@covenantchicago.org) to volunteer.

**Ushers Needed:** Ushers are the first people to greet people as they come to Covenant. They pass out the orders of worship, help people find the bathrooms and classrooms, and help at the end of service to clean up the sanctuary. Most ushers serve once a month. If you'd like to join our usher team, please contact Margaret-Ann Natsis ([margretann.natsis@gmail.com](mailto:margretann.natsis@gmail.com)).



**Gospel Justice Center:** Please pray for Covenant's Gospel Justice Center, a legal-aid clinic created in partnership with Together Chicago and Administer Justice, and run entirely by Covenant volunteers. On the second Saturday of every month, we welcome our neighbors with legal questions from the Logan Square, Bucktown, Garfield Park and Humboldt Park neighborhoods. Please pray for us to care well for our guests, and pray for us to grow in our ability to become a more known presence in our neighborhood.

**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](mailto:devotional@covenantchicago.org) to sign up.

**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/](http://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](mailto:meals@covenantchicago.org).

**Pastor Dan is on sabbatical until August 16.**

**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 David ([dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org](mailto:dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org)).

Next Week Sermon Text: Psalm 133

Giving QR Code





## Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker  
Pastor, [abaker@covenantchicago.org](mailto:abaker@covenantchicago.org)

David Salsedo  
Associate Pastor, [dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org](mailto:dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org)

Dan Adamson  
Associate Pastor, [dadamson@covenantchicago.org](mailto:dadamson@covenantchicago.org)

## Support Staff

Larissa Bossemeyer  
Director of Ministries: [lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org](mailto:lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org)

Gene Pierson  
Director of Finance & Property: [gpierson@covenantchicago.org](mailto:gpierson@covenantchicago.org)

Ian Troll  
Director of Children and Youth Ministries: [ian@covenantchicago.org](mailto:ian@covenantchicago.org)

Paul van der Bijl  
Director of Worship and Music: [pvanderbijl@covenantchicago.org](mailto:pvanderbijl@covenantchicago.org)

## Session

Aaron Baker (Moderator), Dan Adamson, David Dillon, Dave Hoover, Kevin Jones, Brad Lewis, Steve Lehmann, David Salsedo.

*Please direct correspondence for the Session to [session@covenantchicago.org](mailto:session@covenantchicago.org).*

## Diaconate

Andrew Dykstra, Jonathan Ellison, Phil Koerner, Joel Miller, Margret-Ann Natsis, Shane Rector, Deb Van Der Molen, Matt Ver Steeg

**Treasurer:** Ben Harvey

*If you're in need or wish to speak with a deacon, you can email us at [diaconate@covenantchicago.org](mailto: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](http://covenantchicago.org)