

the **Psalms**
of **Ascents**



12th Sunday of Pentecost | August 13, 2023

*Christ's Cross over this face, and thus over my ear.
Christ's Cross over these eyes...this mouth...this throat...
the back of this head...this side...
to accompany before me...
to accompany behind me...
Christ's Cross to meet every difficulty both on hollow and on hill...
Christ's Cross over my community.
Christ's Cross over my church.
Christ's Cross in the next word.
Christ's Cross in this world.*

~10th Century Celtic Prayer

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

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.

**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.

Call to Worship

from Psalm 5

Leader: I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,
will enter your house.

**All: I will bow down toward your holy temple
in the fear of you.**

Leader: Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness
make your way straight before me.

**All: Let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
let them ever sing for joy.**



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

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: *O God, in fear and joy we bow down before you in your presence. We thank you and adore you for showering us with your love and for feeding and sustaining with the living manna of your Son, Jesus Christ.*

Lead us, O Lord, in your righteousness,
All: Come Holy Spirit and visit us with you presence today. Amen.

moment of meditation



3. Let us_ love our God su- preme ly;_ Let us_ love each o - ther, too.



Let us_ care for all His_ peo - ple_ Till our_God makes all things new.



Christ will call us home to_ Hea-ven. At His ban-quet we'll sit__ down;



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

Confession of Sin

from John 13:34-35

Leader: Jesus says to us: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

All: **Forgive us, Jesus, for we do not love others the way you loved us. We're often known for anger and divisions and not for our unity. Grant us the humility, O Lord, to see those around us as you see them.**

Sing to Confess

1. Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit come, With e - rit -
2. Melt, melt this fro - zen heart; This stub - born
3. Con - vince us of our sin; Then lead to
gy di - vine, And on th - is poor, be -
will sub - due; each e - vil pas - sion
Je - sus' blood, And to our wond' - ring
night - ed soul, With beams of mer - cy shine.
o - ver - come, And form me all a - new.
view re - veal The se - cret love of God.

Abbeville, Words: Benjamin Beddome, 1800; Music: The Sacred Harp, E.J. King, 1844

Silent time to pray and confess


Assurance of Pardon

from Ephesians 1

Leader: *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.*

Sing to Assure

All:



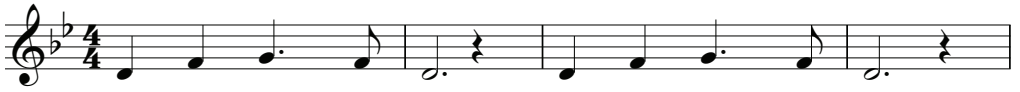
4.'Tis Thine to cleanse the heart, To sanc - ti -
5.Mine will the pro - fit be, But Thine shall
-fy the soul, To pour fresh life in
be the praise; And un - to Thee will
eve - ry part, And new cre - ate the whole.
I de - vote The rem - nant of my days.

Lessons from the Word

read by Kelley and Chad Oldham ①, Tess FisherDubois ②

New Testament Lesson - Ephesians 4.1-6, p.977
Gospel Lesson - John 17.20-23, p.903

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



1. See how good it is. Ga - the - ring with friends,
2. Sad di - vi - sions cease. We are called as priests,
3. See the earth re - newed by the mor - ning dew.



wel - co - ming the stran - ger in, see how good it is.
spread - ing out God's joy - ful feast. See how good it is.
All cre - a - tion sings the truth: "See how good it is!"

refrain



When God's chil-dren live as one, by the Spi - rit we be - come the_



o - pen arms of God To a world in need of love.

See *How Good It Is*, from *Psalms 133*, by Wendell Kimbrough and Sandra McCracken, 2021

The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker
Together, Psalm 133 p.519

A Song of Ascents.


¹ Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore.

refrain



When God's chil-dren live as one, by the Spi-rit we be - come the_
o - pen arms of God To a world in need of love.

Sacrament of Communion

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, use the QR code on page 15, or text a donation amount to 84321.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are for the first line of lyrics, and the last two staves are for the second line. The music is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first line of lyrics is: "Praise God, from whom all bles-sings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be - low;". The second line of lyrics is: "Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men." The music features a mix of chords and single notes, with some notes marked with a fermata.

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.**

**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**

Distribute the Bread & Cup

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:

Chorus:

**All: O Lord, have mercy, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, have mercy, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: O God the Father,

All: Have mercy upon us

Leader: Creator of heaven and earth,

All: Have mercy upon us

to Chorus

Leader: O God the Son,

All: Have mercy upon us

Leader: Redeemer of the world,

All: Have mercy upon us

to Chorus

Leader: O God the Holy Spirit,

All: Have mercy upon us.

Leader: Sanctifier of the faithful

All: Have mercy upon us

to Chorus

Leader: Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, one God

All: Have mercy upon us

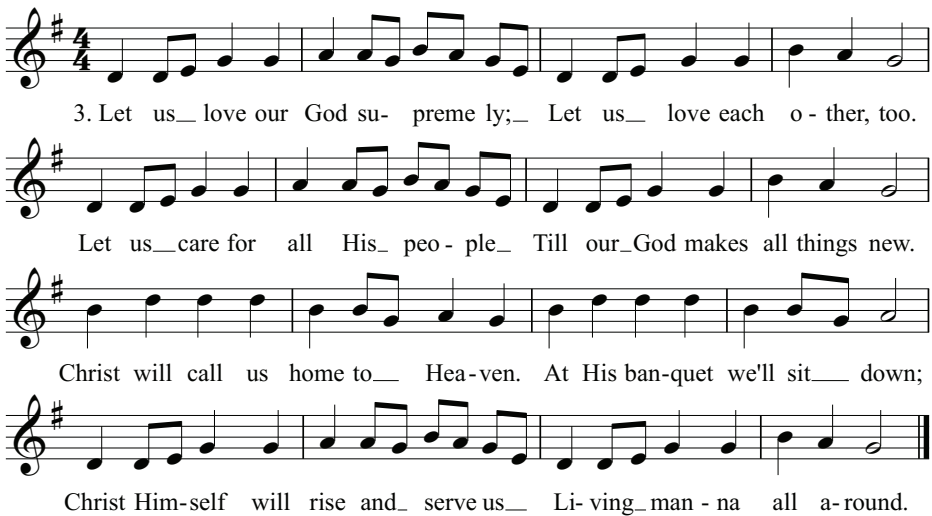
to Chorus

O Lord, Have Mercy, Words and Music, Steve Williamson, Church of Resurrection, Wheaton, IL, 2007

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.**



3. Let us_ love our God su- preme ly;_ Let us_ love each o- ther, too.
Let us_ care for all His_ peo- ple_ Till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to_ Hea-ven. At His ban-quet we'll sit_ down;
Christ Him-self will rise and_ serve us_ Li-ving_ man - na all a-round.

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.

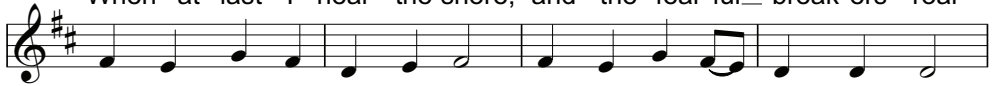
in community

Events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks.

Go With Joy



Je - sus, Sav - ior pi - lot me ov - er life's temp - est - tuous sea;
Though the sea be smooth and bright spark' - ling with the_ stars of night,
As a mo - ther stills her child, You can hush the_ o - cean wild;
When at last I near the shore, and the fear - ful_ break - ers roar



un - known waves be - fore me roll, hid - ing rock and_ treach' - rous shoal;
and my ship's path be a - blaze with the light of_ bet - ter days;
boist' - rous waves o - bey Your will when You say to_ them "Be still!"
be - tween me and peace - ful rest, then while lean - ing_ on Your breast,

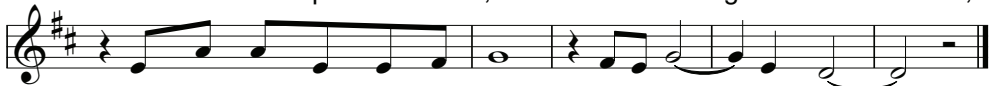


chart and com - pass came from Thee! Savior pi - lot Me. _
still I know my need of Thee! Savior pi - lot Me. _
Won - drous Sov - reign of the sea, Savior pi - lot Me. _
may I hear Thee say to me: "I will pi - lot Thee."

Jesus Savior Pilot Me, Words: Edward Hopper, 1871, Music: Joseph Pensak, Redeemer Presbyterian, Burlington, VT., 2008

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

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: Linda Kim, Ryan von Drehle, Barry Reece (9:00); Andrew Dykstra, Lynda Adamson, Mike FisherDubois (11:15)

Ushers: David Hofman, Mark Hicks (9:00); Phil Koerner (11:15)

Welcome Table: Choon Lee (9:00)

Musicians: Matthew Siefert, bass; Iva Riggs, vocals, Brian Riggs, guitar, vocals; Adriane Fink, piano; Cassidy Miller, vocals; Adèle-Marie Buis, oboe; Joel Miller, 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.

Congregational Meeting: Covenant will have a congregational meeting on September 3 before service at 9:45 in the sanctuary. This will be a time for members to vote on new officers. Bios for the officer candidates are available at the Welcome Table.

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 is a green square with the word "Breakthrough" in white text. The letter "i" in "Breakthrough" has a small orange starburst above it.

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/>.

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).

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).

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: August 19 and 26. Questions? Contact Jenna Hammond (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 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).



ONE CITY. ONE MISSION.

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 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/ 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.

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).

Giving QR Code





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.

Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker
Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org

David Salsedo
Associate Pastor, dsalsedo@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, Kevin Jones, Brad Lewis, Steve Lehmann, David Salsedo.

Please direct correspondence for the Session to 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.

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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