

the **psalms**
of **Ascents**



| 3th Sunday of Pentecost | August 20, 2023

Anti-Psalm 1

*Blessed is the man
who does not need anything from anyone
nor will he ask anyone for help
nor will he ever admit weakness.
But his delight is in his own self-sufficiency,
and on his awesomeness he meditates night and day.
He is like a child
drinking water from Lake Chernobyl.
There is no health, no life
only profound deformity.
The needy in Christ are not so,
but draw life deep from its very source.
Therefore, the awesome try to stand in the judgment,
doomed to be exposed as frauds, they tweet their mad skills—#blessed—determined to be
acknowledged before all.
But the needy in Christ are known by only One,
and he remembers them forever.*

~Todd Gwennap

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.



1. Praise to the Lord the al - might - y the King of cre - a - tion.
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth.
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee;
4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore Him.



O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion.
Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so gen - tly sus - tain - eth.
Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee;
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore Him.



all ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw
Hast thou not seen how thy de - si - res have
Pon - der a - new what the Al - migh - ty can
Let the A - men sound from his peo - ple a -



near. Join me in glad a - do - ra - tion.
been. Grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?
do if with His love He be - friend thee.
gain. Glad - ly for aye we a - dore Him!

Praise to the Lord, Words: Joachim Neander, 1680. Music: Erneuernten Gesangbuch, 1665. arr. by Nathan Drake, Christ's Church, St. Louis.

Call to Worship

adapted from Isaiah 35:1-4, 10

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

**All: We shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.**

Leader: He will strengthen our weak hands,
and make firm our feeble knees.
He will say to us who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God

**All: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon our heads;
we shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**



1. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, vast, un - meas - ured, bound - less, free.
2. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, spread his praise from shore to shore.



Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean, in its full - ness o - ver me.
How he lov - eth ev - er lov - eth Chang - eth ne - ver ne - ver more!



Un - der - neath me, all a - round me, is the cur - rent of thy love.
How he watch - es o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own;



Lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing home - ward, to thy glor - ious rest a - bove.
how for them he in - ter - ce - deth. Watch - eth o'er them from his throne!

O the Deep Deep Love of Jesus, Words: Samuel Francis (1834-1925). Music: Thomas Williams, 1890.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

silent moment of meditation and adoration

3. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, love of ev - ery love the best!
'Tis an o - cean vast of bles - sing, 'tis a ha - ven sweet of rest!
O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, 'tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
and it lifts me up to glo - ry, for it lifts me up to thee!

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major and 3/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a consistent rhythmic pattern of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Leader: Be strong, fear not. Behold, your God!

All: **Come Holy Spirit, strengthen our weak hands, feeble knees, and anxious hearts, and visit us with your presence today. Amen.**

Confession of Sin

from Philippians 4

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

**All: Father, we want to control our circumstances and those around us
because our anxiety consumes us
and we do not trust you.**

Forgive us our unbelief

and grant us the strength to seek you in prayer.

Fill our hearts with your joy.

Silent time to pray and confess

1. Your will be done, my God and fa - ther As in Hea - ven, so on
2. How in that gar - den he per - sis - ted I may ne - ver ful - ly
earth. My heart is drawn to self ex - al - ting, help me seek Your king - dom
know. The fear - ful weight of true o - be - dience it was held by him a -
first. As Je - sus walked, so I shall walk Held by Your
lone. What won - drous faith, to bear that cross To bear my
same un - chang - ing love. Be still my soul. Oh, lift your voice and pray:
sin, what won - drous love My hope was sure When there my Sa - vior prayed:
Fa - ther not my will but Yours be done.

Your Will Be Done, Jonny Robinson, St. Pauls Anglican Church Castle Hill, New South Wales, Australia, 2020

Assurance of Pardon

from Romans 5 and Philipians 4

Leader: While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, and now that we are reconciled we will be saved by his life. We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

All: **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.**

3. When I am lost, when I am bro - ken In the night of fear and
4. As we go forth, our God and Fa - ther Lead us dai - ly in the
doubt. Still I will trust in my good Fa - ther Yes, to one great King I
fight. That all the world might see Your glo - ry and Your Name be lif - ted
bow! As Je - sus rose, so I shall rise In ran - somed
high. And in this Name we o - ver - come For You shall
glo - ry at the throne. My heart re - stored With all your saints I sing:
see us safe - ly home Now as your church We lift our voice and pray:
Fa - ther not my will but Yours be done.

Lessons from the Word

read by Nicole and Patrick Fisher ①, Sharon Durling ②

New Testament Lesson - Hebrews 12.22-24, p.1009
Gospel Lesson - Matthew 11.25-30, p.816

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

Leader: Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,
All sing: Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,

Leader: who stand by night in the house of the LORD!
All sing: who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

Leader: Lift up your hands to the holy place
and bless the LORD our God!

**All sing: Lift up your hands to the holy place
and bless the LORD our God!**

Leader: May the LORD bless you from Zion,
he who made heaven and earth!

**All sing: May the LORD bless you from Zion,
he who made heaven and earth!**

Psalm 134, music by Paul van der Bijl, 2023

The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker
Bless, Psalm 134 p.519

A Song of Ascents.

¹ Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,
who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

² Lift up your hands to the holy place
and bless the LORD!

³ May the LORD bless you from Zion,
he who made heaven and earth!

**All sing: May the LORD bless you from Zion,
he who made heaven and earth!**

Sacrament of Communion

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.

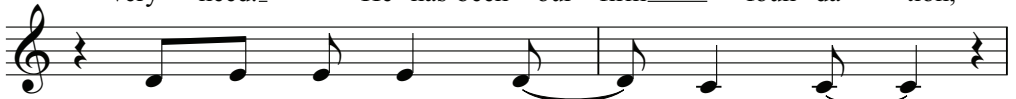
Greet each other in the name of Christ



1. Oh how good to be___ to - ge - ther In this wea - ry world
2. On this day the Lord___ has fa - shioned Come re-joyce with all___
3. When it looked like e - vil con-quired When we felt the dark-
4. Tell the theme of his___ pro-vi - sion How he met our e -



___ we trod.___ What a gift, and what___ a trea - sure,
___ your might. Raise a ban - ner of___ sal - va - tion,
- est hour.___ In des-pair we sought___ the Fa - ther,
- very need.___ He has been our firm___ foun - da - tion,



Kin - dred in the house___ of God___
He has led us through___ the night.___
He has proved his migh - ty pow'r.___
He will e - ver, al - ways be.___



Oh the joy,___ oh the sweet - ness To be ga -



- thered in the name of the Lord___ E-ver-more,___ he will keep



___ us. From the val - ley to the gol - den shore.___

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: Blessed be your holy name, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
For you have revealed yourself to be the only, the eternal, the great I AM.**

Leader: From the flames of the burning bush you anointed Moses
to lead your people out of hardship and bondage to the land of promise.

**All: In the fire of the prophets you spoke of a day
when every sin and sorrow would be burned away
and all the earth would be ablaze with your glory.**

Leader: In the fullness of time you revealed your way of overcoming evil
in the crucible of your Son's passion and death.

**All: Through his resurrection you proclaimed once again
that you are the great I AM for all generations.**

Leader: And so we give you thanks with your church on earth
and all the company of heaven, as we join the 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.**

Chorus

Oh the joy, oh the sweet - ness To be ga -
- thered in the name of the Lord E-ver-more, he will keep
us. From the val - ley to the gol - den shore.

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 meditation during the meal

Lord God, as you made the earth beneath Moses' feet into holy ground,
sanctify this meal to bring us into your sacred presence.
As we remember your son's saving mercies,
send down your Spirit to anoint your church for ministry.
By that same Spirit bless this bread and cup
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

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

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.

Music for Communion

You are welcome to join in song:

By this we re-mem-ber in faith as we ga-ther,
By this we re-mem-ber in hope as we ga-ther,
By this we re-mem-ber in love as we ga-ther,

with bread and wine we re-mem-ber un-til he comes a-gain.
with bread and wine we re-mem-ber un-til he comes a-gain.
with bread and wine we re-mem-ber un-til he comes a-gain.

Chorus

When He comes__ a-gain, like a thief in the night, when he comes__ a-gain,
all the wrongs will be right. All the earth lift-ed up as
heav-en_ comes down: we re mem-ber un-til he comes a-gain.

Until He Comes Again by Sandra McCracken, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, 2022

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.**



When He comes a - gain, like a thief in the night, when he comes a -
gain, all the wrongs will be right. All the earth lift-ed up as
heav-en_ comes down: we re mem-ber un - til he comes a - gain.

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.

Call to Community

Go With Joy

All:



Oh___ when shall I see Je - sus, And reign with Him a - bove,
When___ shall I be de - li - vered From_ sin, and pain and grief,
When - 'ere you meet with trou - bles, and tri - als in your life,
Gird___ on the gos - pel ar - mor of faith and hope and love,

And shall hear the trum - pet sound___ in that mor - ning?
And shall hear the trum - pet sound___ in that mor - ning?
You shall hear the trum - pet sound___ in that mor - ning;
You shall hear the trum - pet sound___ in that mor - ning.

And___ from the flo - wing foun - tain Drink e - ver - las - ting love,
And___ with my bles - sed Je - sus will feast and find re - lief,
Then___ cast your cares on Je - sus, He'll guide you through the strife.
And___ when the fight has end - ed He'll car - ry you a - bove.

And shall hear the trum - pet sound___ in that mor - ning?
And shall hear the trum - pet sound___ in that mor - ning?
You shall hear the trum - pet sound___ in that mor - ning.
You shall hear the trum - pet sound___ in that mor - ning.

Chorus

Shout, Oh glo - ry!___ for I shall see the Christ on high, When I

hear the trum - pet sound in that mor - ning. Shout, Oh ning.

1. | 2.

The Morning Trumpet, Words: John Leland, 1793; Music from the Sacred Harp, 1844; addl. text, vdbijl, 2016

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: Fernando Kim, Sara Ellison (9:00); Rich Lane, Shane Rector, Larissa Bossemeyer (11:15)

Ushers: Chuck Michalek, Matt Ver Steeg (9:00); Jon Skinner (11:15)

Musicians: David Dillon, bass, vocals; Paul David Young, electric guitar, vocals; Adriane Fink, piano; Jeff Wakolbinger, percussion; Rachael Holzhausen, vocals; Paul van der Bijl, guitar, vocals; Cassidy 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 rectangle with the word "Breakthrough" in white. The letter "k" is stylized with a yellow sunburst 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 next week at 11:30, following one service at 10:15. We still have many volunteer spots to fill. If you'd be willing to help either before, after or during the cookout, please contact Larissa Bossemeyer (lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org). Additionally, we ask each person to bring an item to share with the church according to the first letter of their last name:

A-J Fruit, Veggie or Salad

K-S Side dish or chips

T-Z Dessert

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).

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.

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 Ian Troll (ian@covenantchicago.org).

Sunday Morning Sound Technicians Needed: If you are interested in helping run sound on Sunday mornings please contact Russell Kamp at russellkamp@gmail.com.

TOGETHER



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.

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).

Next Week Sermon Text: Psalm 127

Giving QR Code



Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker
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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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covenantchicago.org