

# the Psalms of Ascents



14th Sunday of Pentecost | August 27, 2023

*Trinity*

*In the Beginning, not in time or space,  
But in the quick before both space and time,  
In Life, in Love, in co-inherent Grace,  
In three in one and one in three, in rhyme,  
In music, in the whole creation story,  
In His own image, His imagination,  
The Triune Poet makes us for His glory,  
And makes us each the other's inspiration.  
He calls us out of darkness, chaos, chance,  
To improvise a music of our own,  
To sing the chord that calls us to the dance,  
Three notes resounding from a single tone,  
To sing the End in whom we all begin;  
Our God beyond, beside us and within.*

*~ Malcolm Guite*



# Call to Worship

*The Venite, Psalm 95*

Leader: Come let us sing to the Lord;  
**All: let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

Leader: Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
**All: and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

Leader: For the Lord is a great God,  
**All: and a great King above all gods.**

Leader: In his hand are the caverns of the earth,  
**All: and the heights of the hills are his also.**

Leader: The sea is his, for he made it,  
**All: and his hands have molded the dry land.**

1. Now with joy - ful ex - ul - ta - tion let us sing to God our  
2. For how great a God, and glo - rious, is the Lord of whom we  
praise; to the Rock of our sal - va - tion loud ho - san - nas let us  
sing; o - ver i - dol gods vic - to - rious, great is he, our God and  
raise. Thank - ful trib - ute glad - ly bring - ing, let us  
King. In his hand are earth's deep plac - es, al - so  
come be - fore him now, and, with psalms his prais - es  
his are all the hills; his the sea whose bounds he  
sing - ing, joy - ful in his pres - ence bow.  
trac - es, his the land his boun - ty fills.

*Psalm 95, Words: Psalter, 1912; Music, arr. from Gregorian Chant by Lowell Mason, 1839*

Leader: Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
All: and kneel before the Lord our Maker.



To the Lord, such might re - veal - ing, let us come with rev - erence  
meet, and, be - fore our Mak - er kneel - ing, let us wor - ship at his  
feet. He is our own God who leads us, we the  
peo - ple of his care; with a shep - herd's hand he  
feeds us as his flock in pas - tures fair.


## Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

*silent moment of meditation and adoration*

O God, we kneel before you with prayers of praise and adoration. You are a great God, and a great King above all gods. Thank you for gathering us together this morning. Open our eyes to your presence and our ears to your words.

Come Holy Spirit and visit us with you presence today. Amen.

All:



O Breath of Love, come breathe with - in us,  
re - new - ing thought and will and heart. Come, love of Christ, a - fresh to  
win us. Re vive\_ your church in ev - ery part.

# Confession of Sin

from John 6:35-51

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."

**All: 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 to pray and confess*



1. Grace will pre-vail,\_\_\_                      Though the dark-ness is strong      And the  
2. Grace will pre-vail\_\_\_                      in the val - leys of shame,      Where the  
3. Grace will pre-vail\_\_\_                      Through the wreck-age and storm,      And the



bur-den weighs hea - vy and long. \_\_\_                      Grace will pre-vail. \_\_\_                      For our  
e-choes of fail - ure re - main. \_\_\_                      Grace will pre-vail, \_\_\_                      With the  
brok-en - ness washed on the shore. \_\_\_                      Grace will pre-vail, \_\_\_                      Though an



God is the Light, \_\_\_\_\_ Re-nding the co - ver of night. Grace will pre-vail \_\_\_  
cry to the Lord, There's a moun-tain of mer - cy in store. Grace will pre-vail. \_\_\_  
o-ocean we cry, He is with us and weeps by our side. Grace will pre-vail. \_\_\_

*Chorus*



Wait for the Lord, our God.                      Wait for the Lord, our God. \_\_\_



Wait for the Lord, our rest and re - ward and our peace.

*Grace Will Prevail, by Kirk Sauers and Paul Ranheim, First Presbyterian, Augusta, GA, 2022*

# Assurance of Pardon

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based on 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.**

## Sing to Assure

*Bridge*



Take heart, he has o - ver-come the world.\_\_\_\_ He has o - ver-come.

*Chorus*



Wait for the Lord, our God. Wait for the Lord, our



God.\_\_\_\_ Wait for the Lord, our rest and re - ward and our peace.



Grace will pre - vail\_\_\_\_\_

# Lessons from the Word

read by Kristin and Shane O'Grady

New Testament Lesson -  
Gospel Lesson -

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, p.959  
Matthew 6:25-34, p.811

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



1. Un - less Oh Lord, you are the build - er,\_\_\_\_  
2. Give us deep rest, O heavn' - ly Fa - ther,\_\_\_\_  
3. Be near to us, dear Ho - ly Spi - rit,\_\_\_\_  
4. A - scend with us, O gra - cious Sa - vior,\_\_\_\_



our anx - ious to - il is in vain.\_\_\_\_  
for in your car - ing gen - erous hands,\_\_\_\_  
grant us a he - ri - tage of love.\_\_\_\_  
and walk with us this path of faith.\_\_\_\_



Di - rect our work, that we may join you\_\_\_\_  
we trust in your com - passion - ate good - ness.\_\_\_\_  
Help us to raise all sons and daugh - ters,\_\_\_\_  
We rest in your un - end - ing fa - vor,\_\_\_\_



to raise and build our ve - ry frame.\_\_\_\_  
Fo - give our vain and fu - tile plans.\_\_\_\_  
in the great know - ledge of the Lord.\_\_\_\_  
for with - out you all life is vain.\_\_\_\_

Psalm 127, by Paul David Young & Paul van der Bijl, 2023



# The Word

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Pastor David Salsedo  
Unless the Lord, Psalm 127 p.518

A Song of Ascents.

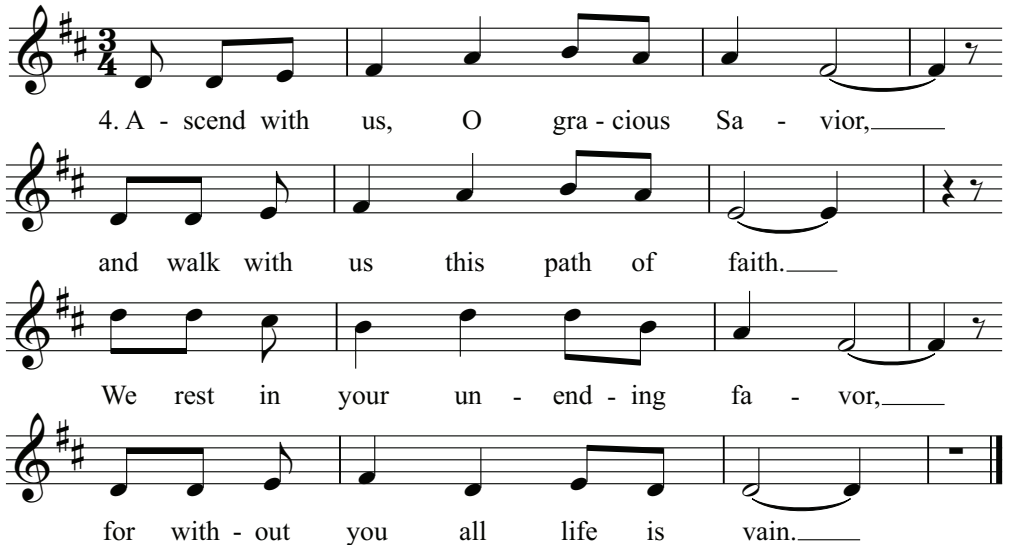
<sup>1</sup> Unless the LORD builds the house,  
those who build it labor in vain.  
Unless the LORD watches over the city,  
the watchman stays awake in vain.

<sup>2</sup> It is in vain that you rise up early  
and go late to rest,  
eating the bread of anxious toil;  
for he gives to his beloved sleep.

<sup>3</sup> Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,  
the fruit of the womb a reward.

<sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior  
are the children of one's youth.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed is the man  
who fills his quiver with them!  
He shall not be put to shame  
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.



4. A - scend with us, O gra - cious Sa - vior,\_\_\_\_  
and walk with us this path of faith.\_\_\_\_  
We rest in your un - end - ing fa - vor,\_\_\_\_  
for with - out you all life is vain.\_\_\_\_

# Sacrament of Communion

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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*

*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.*

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a whole rest followed by a quarter rest, then a series of quarter notes: G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, G. The second staff continues with a half note G, a quarter rest, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, and a half note G. The third staff starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G, A, B, C, D, E, F#, and a half note G. The piece concludes with a double bar line, a repeat sign, and a final half note G.

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: 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*

Wait for the Lord, our God. Wait for the Lord, our  
God. Wait for the Lord, our rest and re-ward and our peace.  
Grace will pre - vail

# 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 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:



1 When peace like a ri - ver at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 My sin O, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought, my



sor rows like sea bil - lows roll; what e - ver my lot, thou has  
this blest as - su - rance con - trol: that Christ has re - gar - ded my  
sin not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I



taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

### *Refrain*



It is well—with my soul,— It is well, it is well with my soul.

*When Peace Like A River; Words: Horatio Spafford, 1873. Music: Philip Bliss, 1876.*

## 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.**



4. And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled



back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the



Lord shall des - cend: "E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well— with my soul,— It is well, it is well with my soul.

# The Work of the People

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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 prayer***

Led by Kara Shroyer

*A prayer for our community*

Leader: Lord in your mercy

**All: Hear our Prayer**

*A prayer for our city*

Leader: Lord in your mercy

**All: Hear our Prayer**

*A prayer for our world*

Leader: Lord in your mercy

**All: Hear our Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

*Refrain*



It is well—with my soul,— It is well, it is well with my soul.

## ***in community***

Events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks.

## Go With Joy

1. Re - joyce, the Lord is King: Your Lord and King a - dore!  
2. Je - sus, the Sa - vior, reigns, The God of truth and love;  
3. His king - dom can - not fail, He rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
4. Re - joyce in glo - rious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come

Re - joyce, give thanks and sing, And triumph e - ver - more. Lift  
When He has purged our stains, He took his seat a - bove; Lift  
The keys of death and hell Are to our Je - sus giv'n: Lift  
to ga - ther all his saints to their e - ter - nal home: Lift

up your heart, Lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!  
up your heart, Lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!  
up your heart, Lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!  
up your heart, Lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!

*Rejoice the Lord is King, Words: Charles Wesley, 1746; Music, John Darwall, 1770*

## 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

### 10.15 service

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

#### Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Jonathan Ellison, Cora Passis, Jonathan Spalink

Ushers: James Leach, Margret-Ann Natsis

Musicians: Paul David Young, electric guitar, keys, vocals; Adèle-Marie Buis, oboe; Matthew Siefert, bass; Devon Spencer, 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 next Sunday on September 3 before service at 9:45 in the sanctuary. This will be a time for members to vote on new officers and to release Pastor David from his pastoral call at Covenant. Bios for the officer candidates are available at the Welcome Table

**Departure Letter from Pastor David:** Last week, Pastor David announced that his last day on staff at Covenant will be September 3. If you missed his announcement, you can read it on our website (<https://covenantchicago.org/departure-letter/>).

**One Service Next Sunday:** We'll have one service at 10:15 am on September 3. Childcare will be available during service for children birth through 5th grade.

The logo for Breakthrough is a green rectangle with the word "Breakthrough" in white. 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](mailto:breakthrough@covenantchicago.org) for more information or sign up for upcoming dates on our website: <https://covenantchicago.org/events/breakfast-at-breakthrough/>.

**Newcomers Lunch:** Covenant is hosting a welcome lunch on September 24 at 12:30 for those who are new to Covenant's community. It will be a fun and informal way to be introduced to some new faces, learn some names, share some stories, and meet some of Covenant's staff and officers. Please RSVP to Pastor Dan ([dadamson@covenantchicago.org](mailto:dadamson@covenantchicago.org)) if you'd like to join.

**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.

**Parenting in Light of the Gospel:** In a world that feels as complex as ours does, the Gospel provides a lens that can inform our decisions where there are no easy answers. In this 4-week class, we'll talk about the way that the Gospel shapes how we approach parenting in issues like discipline, technology, and mental health. Join fellow parents as we reflect together on how to faithfully disciple our children. Class will meet in the All Saints Room at 10:15 beginning on September 10.

**The Reluctant Prophet:** In four short chapters, the book of Jonah tells the story of a runaway prophet. More than a Big Fish, this short book shows the lengths Jonah would travel to avoid God's call. Taking us on a journey from the shores of Joppa to the heart of Assyria, this is the story of a God who is slow to anger and abounding in love and a prophet who would rather die than see his enemies receive grace. Join us for this 4-week class on Jonah taught by Mark Lester starting on September 10 at 10:15 in the Library of the Education Building.

**Serving Our City:** As a church in the city, one of the ways we love our neighbors is by working for the good of our city. Covenant does that in part through partnerships with other city ministries. Join us for this 4 week class to hear from various city ministries we serve with as a church and learn how you can be involved. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall beginning on September 10.

**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)).

**Wednesday Morning Women's Group:** Beginning September 6, Covenant's Wednesday morning women's group will resume for the Fall. The group meets in the All Saints Room at Covenant from 9 to 11 am each Wednesday. This Fall, they'll read Mere Christianity. You're welcome to join whether you're able to come weekly or occasionally. Childcare is available. Anna Troll ([annelise.olson94@gmail.com](mailto:annelise.olson94@gmail.com)) and Devon Spencer ([devonspencer1112@gmail.com](mailto:devonspencer1112@gmail.com)) will lead this group.

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

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.

**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).

**Let Us Pray for You.** Covenant's staff meets to pray for the congregation throughout the week. We would be honored to pray for you. You can share prayer requests by writing them on the tear out portion at the back of the order of worship or by emailing Pastor Dan ([dadamson@covenantchicago.org](mailto:dadamson@covenantchicago.org)).



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*

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[covenantchicago.org](http://covenantchicago.org)