



THE HEALING JESUS

Fire in the Earth

*And we know, when Moses was told,
in the way he was told,
"Take off your shoes!" He grew pale from that simple*

*reminder of fire in the dusty earth.
He never recovered
his complicated way of loving again*

*and was free to love in the same way
he felt the fire licking at his heels loved him.
As if the lion earth could roar*

*and take him in one movement.
Every step he took
from there was carefully placed.*

*Everything he said mattered as if he knew
the constant witness of the ground
and remembered his own face in the dust*

*the moment before revelation.
Since then thousands have felt
the same immobile tongue with which he tried to speak.*

*Like the moment you too saw, for the first time,
your own house turned to ashes.
Everything consumed so the road could open again.*

*Your entire presence in your eyes
and the world turning slowly
into a single branch of flame.*

*~ David Whyte
~ Sumac Berry Ink Drawing by Jamie Gray*

16th Sunday of Pentecost, September 10, 2023

Children's programming is available during the service on the lower level, see page 16 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.



Ho - - ly God, Ho - ly and migh - ty,
Ho - ly im-mor-tal one, Have mer-cy, have mer-cy on us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the prayer, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Trisagion, Words, 1st Century prayer; Music, Fernando Ortega, 2011

Call to Worship

from Psalm 34

Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**All: My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.**

Leader: Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

**All: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!**



1. Lord, I_ will bless you all my days! Your praise shall dwell up - on my tongue;
2. To him_ the wan-d'rers lift their eyes, Their fa - ces feel a heav' - nly shine;
3. God's an - gels help the one that faints, And guard_ the ones that serve the Lord.



My soul_ shall glo - ry in your grace,___ Let all_ re-joice to hear my song!
A beam_ of mer - cy from the skies___ will bless_ with light and joy di - vine.
O - bey and love him, all ye saints,___ taste of_ his grace, and trust his word.



O, mag - ni - fy the Lord with me;___ Come, let us all ex - alt his name.



I sought_ the e - ter - nal God and he___ has freed_ my long - ing heart from blame.

Psalm 34, Words: , Isaac Watts, 1720, Music based on a Sacred Harp tune

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

moment of silent adoration

O God, our Maker, we adore you and magnify you and bless your name. You are the living bread and we can taste and see that you are good and we find our refuge in your grace and your mercy.



O, mag - ni - fy the Lord with me; _ Come, let us all ex - alt his name.



I sought the e - ter - nal God and he _ has freed my long - ing heart from blame.

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, help us to taste and see that you are good!

All: **Visit us with your presence today. Amen.**

Confession of Sin

from John 15

Leader: Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."

All: **Jesus, you have bound us to yourself in love, and we draw our life from you. Forgive us our tendency to sustain ourselves and find our meaning in anything but your grace and mercy.**

Silent time to pray and confess



1. A - bide with me: fast falls the ev - en - tide;
2. Swift to its close life ebbs out ev - ery day;
3. I need your pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour.



the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way.
What but your grace can foil the tempt - er's power?



When o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
Who like your - self my guide and strength can be?



Help of the help - less, Lord, a - bide with me.
O Lord who chang - es not, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.

Abide With Me, Words: Henry Lyte, All Saints' Church, Brixham, UK, 1847; Music: William Monk, 1861

Assurance of Pardon

from John 15 and Romans 8

Leader: Jesus promises, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

All: **There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set us free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.**

4. I fear no foe with you at hand to bless,
though ills have weight, and tears their bit - ter - ness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your vic - to - ry?
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It consists of four lines of music. The first line begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second line continues the melody and lyrics. The third line continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth line concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "4. I fear no foe with you at hand to bless, though ills have weight, and tears their bit - ter - ness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your vic - to - ry? in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me."

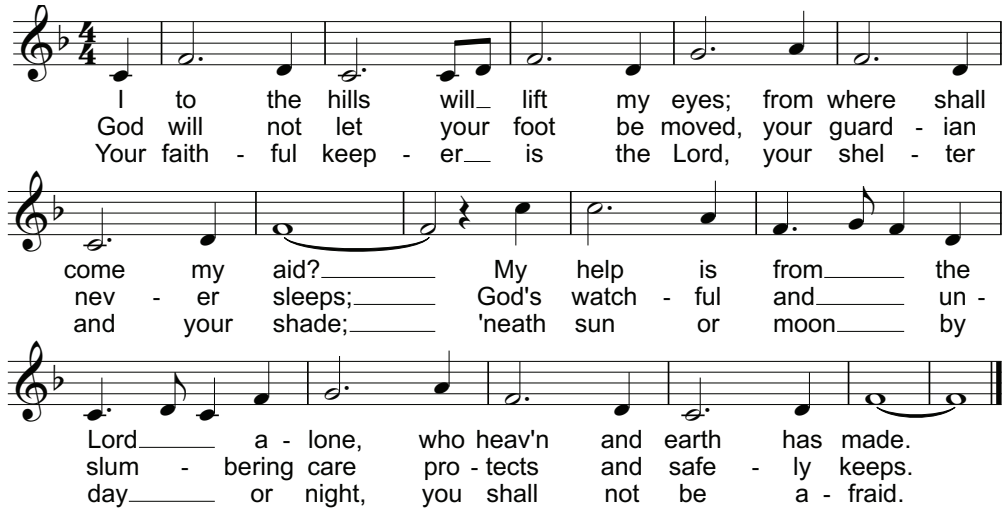
Lessons from the Word

Sarah Bauer ①, Taylor Nesse ②

Old Testament Lesson -
New Testament Lesson -

Isaiah 61.1-4, p.620
Colossians 1.15-20, p.983

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



I to the hills will lift my eyes; from where shall
God will not let your foot be moved, your guard - ian
Your faith - ful keep - er is the Lord, your shel - ter
come my aid? My help is from the
nev - er sleeps; God's watch - ful and un -
and your shade; 'neath sun or moon by
Lord a - lone, who heav'n and earth has made.
slum - bering care pro - tects and safe - ly keeps.
day or night, you shall not be a - fraid.

Psalm 121, Words, Psalter, 1912; Music, attr. Stephen Jenks 1832, arr. vanderBijl, 2013

The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker

Authority and Power, Luke 4:31–44 p.860

³¹ And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³² and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³ And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." ³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. ³⁶ And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" ³⁷ And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

³⁸ And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. ³⁹ And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

⁴² And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." ⁴⁴ And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

All:



From e - vil God will_ keep you safe, pro - vide for
all you need; your go - ing out, your
com - ing in, God will for - ev - er lead.

Sacrament of Communion

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

The Great Thanksgiving

All:

1. In Christ we of - fer all that He has
 2. So we re - mem - ber all that He re -
 3. Sent forth in beau - ty, rec - on - cil - ing

of - fered. The per - fect of - fer - ing.____
 mem - bered. The whole of love re - turned.____
 all things. Ra - dian in ho - li - ness.____

refrain

Christ is the life_ of the world._ Christ is the life_ of the world._

bridge

Let us lift up, lift our hearts. Let us lift up, lift our hearts.

It is good to lift our hearts_ to the Lord.____

Leader: And so we gladly thank you, 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.**

refrain

Christ is the life_ of the world._ Christ is the life_ of the world._

Christ is the Life of the World, by Sandra McCracken, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, 2022

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

***We lift our heart to you, Lord God,
because you draw your whole creation
into the celebration of your glory.
Send down your Holy Spirit upon us now,
that every part of every one of us
might become an instrument of your peace.
Give us you very self in these gifts of bread and wine
and make them be for us the body and blood of your Son 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

Music for Communion

*Alessandro Marcello: Oboe Concerto - Adagio,
Brian Riggs, classical guitar, Adèle-Marie Buis, oboe*

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.**

Statement of Faith

Nicene Creed

We be-lieve in one God, Fa-ther Al-might-y. Who made hea-ven and
We be-lieve in one Spi-rit, gi-ver of life. Who pro-ceeds from the
earth all things seen and un- seen. We be-lieve in one Christ, true Son of
Fa-ther and from the Christ. We be-lieve in one Church, one faith, one
God, be-fore all time, ha-le-lu-jah!
love, through-out all time, ha-le-lu-jah!
God of God, Light of light, true God from true God.
Christ has died! He a-rose! He comes a-gain!
We be-lieve! We be-lieve! Ha-le-lu-jah! We be-lieve!

Based on the Nicene Creed, by Paul van der Bijl & Dave Jarvis, 2023, a song in triplets to exalt the Trinity.

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. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2. Those he saves are his de-light, Christ will hold me fast;
3. For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;

When the temp-ter would pre-vail, He will hold me fast.
Pre-cious in his ho-ly sight, He will hold me fast.
Jus-tice has been sa-tis-fied; He will hold me fast.

I could ne-ver keep my hold Through life's fear-ful path;
He'll not let my soul be lost; His prom-is-es shall last;
Raised with him to end-less life, He will hold me fast

For my love is oft-en cold; He must hold me fast.
Bought by him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.
'Til our faith is turned to sight, When he comes at last!

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;

For my Sa-vior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

He Will Hold Me Fast, Words: Ada R. Habershon, 1906; Music and addl. words, Matt Merker, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington, DC, 2013

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
- Nursery: Ages 0-4 (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: PreK-8th Grade (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: High School (Youth Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Parenting in Light of the Gospel (All Saints Room, Lower Level)
- Adult Education: The Reluctant Prophet (Library, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Serving Our City (Fellowship Hall, Ed Building)

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Isak Siemens, Holly and Steven Lehmann (9:00); Mark and Ranya Faasse (11:15)

Ushers: Chuck Michalek, David Hofman (9:00); Christie Kay (11:15)

Welcome Table: Peggy Adamson (9:00)

Musicians: Adèle-Marie Buis, Oboe; Brian Riggs, classical guitar, bass; Adriane Fink, piano; Jim Wilkes, mandolin; Cassidy Miller, vocals; Erica Norman, vocals; Sound Technician, Jon Skinner.

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.



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/>.

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) 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 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 meets in the All Saints Room at 10:15

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 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 in the Fellowship Hall to hear from various city ministries we serve with as a church and learn how you can be involved. This week, we'll hear from Together Chicago.

Children's Worship: For the Fall, Covenant will be dividing our Children's Worship into two sessions, one for preschool and kindergarten students and the other for elementary students. The younger class will be geared towards non-readers and have more open play time to make it a smoother transition to nursery. This new class will be taught by Amy Lewis and Emily Willis.

Small Groups: Covenant small groups meet throughout the city. Small groups are a great way to get to know others at Covenant, study Scripture, and pray together. If you'd be interested in learning more about small groups, please contact Pastor Dan. (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

Wednesday Morning Women's Group: 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.

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.



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.

Staff Change: David Salsedo's last day as a pastor at Covenant was September 3. He and his family continue to attend Covenant.

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).



Giving QR Code

Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker
Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org

Dan Adamson
Associate Pastor, dadamson@covenantchicago.org

Support Staff

Larissa Bossemeyer
Director of Ministries: lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org

Gene Pierson
Director of Finance & Property: gpierson@covenantchicago.org

Ian Troll
Director of Children and Youth Ministries: ian@covenantchicago.org

Paul van der Bijl
Director of Worship and Music: pvanderbijl@covenantchicago.org

Session

Aaron Baker (Moderator), Dan Adamson, David Dillon, Dave Hoover, Brad Lewis, Steve Lehmann, Josh Norton

Please direct correspondence for the Session to session@covenantchicago.org.

Diaconate

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

Treasurer: Ben Harvey

If you're in need or wish to speak with a deacon, you can email us at diaconate@covenantchicago.org.

Welcome to Covenant

Please fill out this form, tear it out, and put it in one of the offering boxes at the back of the church.

circle one:

New to Covenant | Regular Attender | Member

Name:

Email:

Address:

Phone:

↑ *This is new or updated information* ↑

I am interested in:

- More information
- Small Groups
- Service Opportunities
- Membership
- Receiving the Email Letter
- Children and Youth Ministry
- Other:

Prayer Requests:

Covenant Life

Worship Together:

We are made to worship the Triune God, and our worship is always ordered around Jesus Christ and the forgiveness and grace he secured for us by his cross, resurrection and ascension. Gathering around this good news together on Sundays strengthens our appetites, imaginations and abilities to live as followers of Jesus.

Grow and Learn Together:

Learning about our faith and growing together in it forms us into human beings who are fully swept up into the work God is doing to reconcile all things to himself in Jesus. Learning is more than simply knowing; it is the internalization of truth that leads to mature thinking and acting.

Serve Together:

The natural outcome of receiving and experiencing grace is to be propelled outward into mission and service. All of us have been given gifts to use for the good of our common life and for the good of the broken world around us, and we encourage everyone to regularly use their gifts in service.



*a church, a city,
and a world
continually made new
by the grace of Christ*

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covenantchicago.org

