

HELP MY UNBELIEF

You Will Heal

Pour out for me the life-blood of your heart For my own life is ebbing to a close. Make haste to help me, come and heal my hurt,

Come down O lord and rescue me from those Who seek to sow confusion in my soul, From those who patronise the faithful, those

Who humour our religion, but whose whole Approach to life dismisses faith and prayer. Yet you continue holy. You will heal

The deep wounds in our culture: its despair, Its idols and addictions, its rejection Of your gospel. In your mercy spare

This weary world, descending to dejection, And come as our redeemer, quickly come And raise us with you in your resurrection.

~ Malcolm Guite



Sermon Series: The Healing Jesus Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago 18th Sunday of Pentecost, September 24, 2023 Watercolor by Jamie Gray **Children's programming** is available during both services 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.

Call To Worship

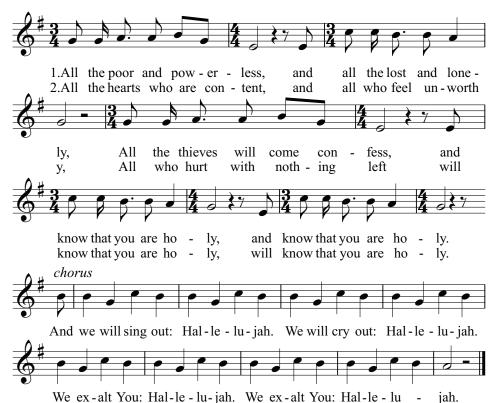
Psalm 117

Leader: Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

All: For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD!



Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

moment of silent adoration

Holy God, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness to us, we gather with the faithful from all the nations of the world today to praise and adore you.

Come Holy Spirit and open our eyes and ears to your presence today, Amen.

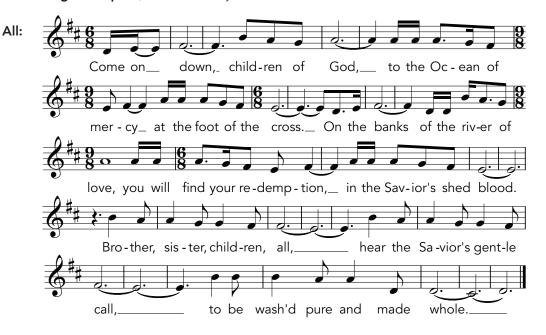


Holy God We Praise Your Name, words, Ignaz Franz, 4th cent.; music, Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774

Sacrament of Baptism

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of you calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all in all. - Ephesians 4:4-6

Sing to Prepare, Ocean of Mercy



Gabriel John Lehmann, son of Holly and Steve, brother of Mary-Jo

Prayer of Congregational Blessing:

All: Ever-living God, in your mercy you promised to be not only our God but also the God of our children. We thank you for receiving **Gabriel** by baptism. Keep him always in your love. Guide him as he grows in faith. Protect him in all the dangers and temptations of life. May he be a faithful disciple of your son Jesus Christ to his life's end. In Christ's name, Amen.

All sing: Brother, sister, children all...

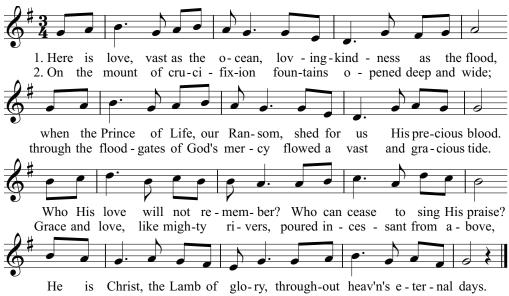
Confession of Sin, adapted from Hebrews 3

Leader:

Take care, lest there be in you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. Exhort one another every day, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, and the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts in rebellion."

All: Father, we are callous to the ways our sins affect us and those around us. Forgive us the evil of our unbelief, grant us the ears to hear the voice of your Spirit, and soften our rebellious hearts.



and heav'n's peace and per-fect jus-tice kissed a guil - ty world in love.

Here is Love Vast as the Ocean, Words, William Reese, 1850, music by Robert Lowry, 1876, arr. by Nathan Drake, Christ's Church, St. Louis, 2015

Silent time to pray and confess

Assurance of Pardon, adapted from Hebrews 10

Leader: Christ sacrificed himself for our sins and the Holy Spirit bears witness to us.

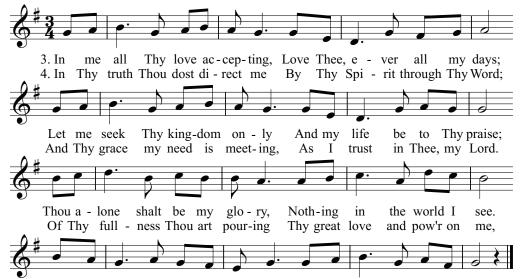
All: He has made a covenant with us.

He put his laws on our hearts,

He wrote them on our minds.

He remembers our sins and our lawless deeds no more.

Sing to Assure



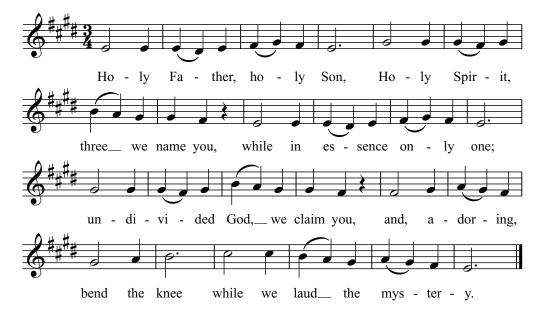
Lessons from the Word

Matthew Clay ①, Linda and Steve Smith ②

Old Testament Lesson - Psalm 46.1-3, p.471 New Testament Lesson - Romans 1.16-17, p.939

Reader: The Word of the Lord

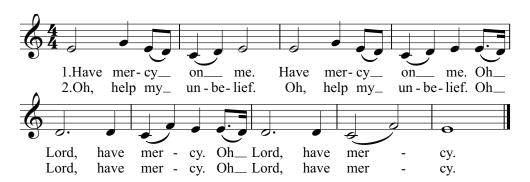
All: Thanks be to God



The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker Help My Unbelief, Mark 9:14–29 p.844

¹⁴ And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. 15 And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. 16 And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" ¹⁷ And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸ And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." ¹⁹ And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." ²⁰ And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³ And Jesus said to him, "'If you can'! All things are possible for one who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵ And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." ²⁶ And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸ And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹ And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."



Have Mercy, Words and Music, Sandra McCracken, 2015

Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

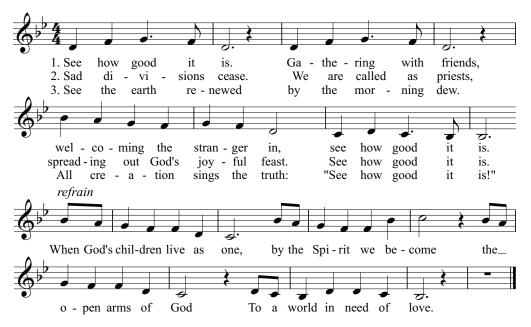
All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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.



See How Good It Is, from Psalm 133, by Wendell Kimbrough, Episcopal Church of The Incarnation, Dallas, TX; and Sandra McCracken, 2021

The Great Thanksqiving, by Samuel Wells, vicar, & Abby Kocher, 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.

Healing God, Praise be unto you, for you have taken in your own two hands All: the redemption of your world and refashioned us from brokenness into life everlasting with you.

Leader: Like a potter you fashioned your chosen people, making them into a vessel worthy of

your glory. When that vessel was spoiled you called your people to repentance and

sent prophets to renew their faith.

All: In the fullness of time, through the death and resurrection of your Son,

you reworked the clay like a potter at a wheel;

You remade us as vessels revealing your goodness and grace Leader:

through the forgiveness of sins.

All: You raise us up from the dust of the earth to the hope of everlasting life.

And so with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we praise your Leader:

name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, All:

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.



And we will sing out: Hal-le - lu - jah. We will cry out: Hal-le - lu - jah.



We ex-alt You: Hal-le-lu-jah. We ex-alt You: Hal-le-lu-

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

Cleansing God, your touch and word turned death to life in the body of a young girl, and when a suffering woman touched the hem of your garment you proclaimed that her faith had made her well. Come among us now in that same word and touch, and restore the body, mind, and spirit of your church to life in your name. In the power of your Holy Spirit speak over and touch this bread and this cup, that we may find in them your healing and resurrection, and they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

by Samuel Wells, vicar, & Abby Kocher, 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

You are welcome to join in song:



O Lord of Light, Words: Latin chant, 9th cent., Music: Sarum Plainsong, mode IV

Respond to the Table

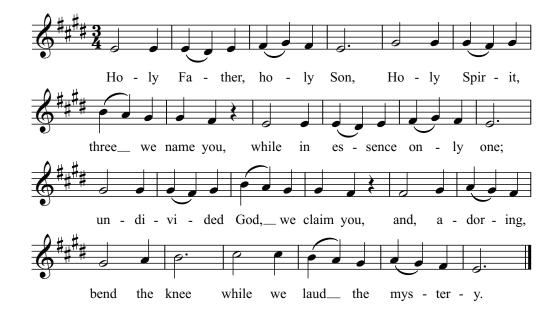
Leader: Remembering

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.



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 prayer

Led by Fernando Kim

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.

in community

Events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks.

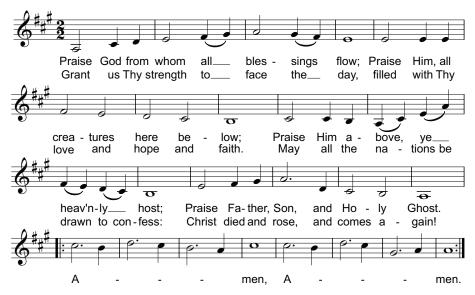
Go With Joy

from 1 Peter 3:18 and Mark 9

Leader: Father, as we enter this week,

may we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and grant us the strength to say with the man who witnessed the miracle of Jesus:

All: We believe! Help us in our unbelief!



Doxology, Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, v2 by vdBijl, 2018; Music, John Hatton, 1793, Chorus, Redeemer Knoxville, 2014

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

2nd service, 11:15am

Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level
- Children's Worship: preK-5th Grade, 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 Éducation: Parenting in Light of the Gospel (All Saints Room, Lower Level)
- Adult Education: The Reluctant Prophet (Library, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Serving Our City (Conference Room, Ed Building)

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Joshua Norton, Rachel Salsedo, Michele Dillon (9:00); Christie Kay, Lynda Adamson, Rich Lane (11:15)

Ushers: Jonathan Clarke, Leslie Lucas, Mark Scheerhorn (9:00); James Masterfield, Jon Skinner (11:15) Musicians: Paul David Young, electric guitar, vocals; Brian Riggs, bass, vocals; Adriane Fink, piano; Devon Spencer, vocals; Cassidy Miller, vocals; Sound Technician, James Gay.

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 today for those who are new to Covenant's community. Join us at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall of the Education Building to get to know some other newcomers and Covenant's staff.

Women's Retreat: Registration is now open for our annual women's retreat on October 20-22. This year, we'll return to the Dekoven Center in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Sign up and learn more at https://covenantchicago.org/events/womens-retreat/. Contact women@covenantchicago.org with any questions.

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.. Join fellow parents as we reflect together on how to faithfully disciple our children. Class meets in the All Saints Room at 10:15. This week, Aaron and Allison Baker will talk about complex parenting choices like schools and technology.

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. Join us for this 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 in the Conference Room this week to hear from World Relief.

Covenant Life Class: Join us for our Covenant Life Class taught by the staff. This 6 week class, beginning October 1,5 is for those who are interested in learning more about the church and the things we care about most, starting with the gospel. This class is a requirement for those who wish to become members. For more information, contact Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

Dinner Together: Join others from Covenant for potluck gatherings throughout the city. On October 7, 14 and 15, Covenant is organizing dinners for groups of 8-12. If you'd be interested in attending one of these gettogethers, please fill out the form on the welcome table or our website (covenantchicago.org/events/dinnertogether). Questions? 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).

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.

Common Ground Volunteers: Covenant is looking for additional volunteers to help with coffee and snacks for Common Ground. Volunteers help with either setup (during the 9:00 am service) or clean up (during the 11:15 service), as well as helping during Common Ground to replenish coffee as needed. Most volunteers serve once a month. If you'd be interested, please contact Larissa Bossemeyer (lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org).

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.

Mentoring at Pulaski: Covenant, in partnership with Together Chicago and Love Your School, has launched a mentoring program for 6th -8th graders at Pulaski Elementary School, blocks away from church. We are looking for volunteers who are available on Thursdays from 4:00-5:15 pm to meet with young students and invest in them during the school year. Please reach out to Linda Kim at lindakim5@gmail.com to learn more. New mentoring session to begin Thursday, October 5th. Join us for a training session Sunday, October 1st at 10:15 am.

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).

Sermon Text Next Week: Luke 13:10-17



Welcome to Covenant Pastoral Staff Please fill out this form, tear it out, and put it in one of Aaron Baker the offering boxes at the back of the church. Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org Dan Adamson circle one: Associate Pastor, dadamson@covenantchicago.org New to Covenant | Regular Attender | Member Support Staff Name: Larissa Bossemeyer Director of Ministries: lbossemeyer@ covenantchicago.org Email: Gene Pierson Director of Finance & Property: gpierson@ Address: covenantchicago.org Ian Troll Director of Children and Youth Ministries: ian@ Phone: covenantchicago.org Paul van der Biil Director of Worship and Music: pvanderbijl@ covenantchicago.org \uparrow This is new or updated information \uparrow Session I am interested in: More information Aaron Baker (Moderator), Dan Adamson, David Dillon, Dave Hoover, Brad Lewis, Steve Lehmann, ☐ Small Groups Josh Norton Service Opportunities Please direct correspondence for the Session to session@covenantchicago.org. Membership Diaconate Receiving the Email Letter Andrew Dykstra, Jonathan Ellison, Phil Koerner, Children and Youth Ministry Joel Miller, Margret-Ann Natsis, Shane Rector, Jon Skinner, Deb Van Der Molen, Matt Ver Steeg, Other: Kylene Young Treasurer: Ben Harvey If you're in need or wish to speak with a deacon, you can Prayer Requests: email us at diaconate@covenantchicago.org.

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

