



I AM WORKING

*Like the wine from heaven's cup,
Christ now pours being out
'til the world's abyss fills up—
Mercy ends the ancient drought.*

~ Kate Bluett



*Sermon Series: The Healing Jesus
Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago
21st Sunday of Pentecost, October 14, 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.

Come bless the Lord, all you ser-vants of the Lord, who stand by night
in the house of the Lord! Lift up your hands to the ho-ly place
and bless the Lord our God! Lift up your hands to the
ho-ly place and bless the Lord our God!

ending

May the Lord_ bless you from Zi-on, he who made heav-en and earth!
May the Lord_ bless you from Zi-on, he who made heav-en and earth!

Psalm 134, music by Paul van der Bijl, 2023

Call to Worship

Psalm 134

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

**All: Let us lift up our hands in this holy place
and bless the LORD!**

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

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

1. O wor-ship the King, all glo-rious a - bove, O grate - ful - ly
2. O tell of His might, O sing of His grace, Whose robe is the
3. Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the
4. Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail, In Thee do we
sing His pow'r and His love; Our Shield and De - fen - der, the
light, whose ca - no - py space! His cha - riots of wrath the deep
air, it shines in the light, It streams from the hills, it des -
trust, nor find Thee to fail: Thy mer - cies how ten - der, how
An - cient of Days, Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gir - ded with praise.
thun - der - clouds form, And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
cends to the plain, And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
firm to the end, Our Ma - ker, De - fen - der, Re - dee - mer, and Friend.

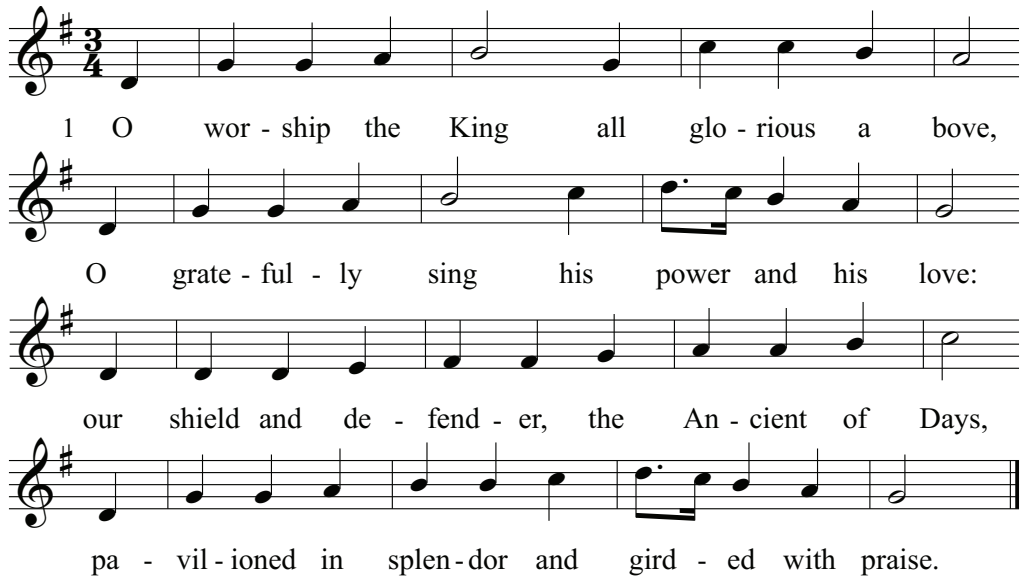
O Worship the King, Words: Robert Grant, 1833, Music: Johann M. Haydn (1737-1806)

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: O God, our Father, almighty King of creation, we lift our hands in this holy place to adore and bless you. We thank you for standing with us even in the darkness of our night.

All: Come Holy Spirit, and visit us with your presence today. Amen.

moment of silent meditation



The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "I O wor - ship the King all glo - rious a bove, O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love: our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise." The score consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a sharp sign. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a sharp sign, and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

I O wor - ship the King all glo - rious a bove,
O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love:
our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.

Confession of Sin

from Isaiah 59.12

Leader: For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us;
All: **for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities.**

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'Come every soul by sin oppress'd, There's mercy with the Lord; And For Jesus shed His precious blood, Rich blessings to bestow; Plunge He will surely give you rest by trusting in His word. now in to the crimson flood That washes white as snow. On - ly trust him, on - ly trust Him, On - ly trust Him now. He will save you, He will save you, He will save you now.' The score includes first and second endings for the final phrase.

Come, Every Soul by Sin Oppressed, Words and Music by John Stockton, 1874, arr. by vdBijl

Silent time to pray and confess

Prayer of silent confession

God of all flesh, in Jesus Christ you have immersed divine splendor and wisdom into human life. You are not repelled by the shabbiness and shamefulfulness of my life but seek to redeem me. I confess my repulsion of those whose actions bewilder me, whose sorrow burdens me, or whose good fortune somehow detracts from my life. My compassion is limited to those like myself. My kindness is reserved for those kind to me. My passionate concern remains silent until my own little kingdom is threatened. O God, forgive me. Cleanse me of self-centeredness and open me to the whole breadth and length, height and depth of your love, manifest in all creation. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

from 2 Corinthians 5:21

Leader: *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Song of Assurance

All:

O Je - sus bles - sed Je - sus dear, I'm com - ing now to Thee, Since
You have ma - de the way so clear, And full sal - va - tion free.
On - ly tru - st him, on - ly trust Him, On - ly trust Him now.
He will sa - ve you, He will save you, He will save you now.

Lessons from the Word

Jeanie Hoover ①, Sarah Marlow ②

Old Testament Lesson -
New Testament Lesson -

Genesis 2.1-3, p.2
Romans 11.33-36, p.947

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



1. Je - sus, Thou Joy of lo - ving hearts! Thou Fount of
2. Thy truth un - changed hath e - ver stood; Thou sav - est



life, Thou Light of men! From the best bliss that earth im -
those that on Thee call; To them that seek Thee Thou art



parts, We turn, un - filled, to Thee a - gain.
good, To them that find Thee all in all.

Jesus Thou Joy of Loving Hearts, Words: Bernard of Clairvaux, 1150; Music: Henry Baker, 1854

The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker

I Am Working, John 5.1-17 p.890

¹ After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³ In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.

⁴ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁵ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" ⁶ The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me." ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." ⁸ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. ⁹ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed." ¹⁰ But he answered them, "The man who healed me, that man said to me, 'Take up your bed, and walk.'" ¹¹ They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" ¹² Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. ¹³ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." ¹⁴ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. ¹⁵ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

Notes:

All:

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "3. We taste Thee, O Thou li - ving Bread, And long to feast up - on Thee still; We drink of Thee, the Foun-tain - head, And thirst our souls from Thee to fill."

Sacrament of Communion

2 Corinthians 13:11-14: Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

Leader: The Lord be with you
All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts
All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Greet each other in the name of Christ

Giving back to God a portion of what he's already given us is an important part of the Christian life. The bread and wine we use in communion are a picture of the gifts that God has given us, offered back to him as an act of worship. You can offer your resources back to God in support of the work of the church by placing your offering in the boxes in the back on the way out. You can also give online at covenantchicago.org/give, use the QR code on page 15, or text a donation amount to 84321.

Doxology Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, Music, German Psalter, 1561

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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: It is right to give you thanks and praise.

Leader: In the beginning you laid the foundation of the earth and created us in your image.

All: You set for us a Table in the Garden where we feasted together with you in peace.

Leader: But we turned from you, leaving sin and death to reign.

All: Still you loved us and sought us and invited us to feast with you again.

Leader: You sent us bread from heaven and broke the stone to quench our thirst. You gave us a land flowing with milk and honey. You sent us the prophets and priests to call us back to you. And still we rebelled against you because of our sin.

All: Through Christ, you filled us with living bread and quenched our thirst with living water and opened a place for us at your Table to commune together in peace again.

Leader: Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim:

**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.**



May the Lord_ bless you from Zi- on, he who made heav-en and earth!



May the Lord_ bless you from Zi- on, he who made heav-en and earth!

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 and healing God, your touch healed the invalid man by the side of the pool. 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.

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. A - las! and did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my Sov - reign
2. Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned up - on the
3. Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut his glo - ries
4. But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay the debt of love I

die? Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
tree? A - maz - ing pit - y! Grace un - known! And love be - yond de - gree!
in, when God, the might - y Ma - ker, died for man the crea - ture's sin.
owe; Here, Lord, I give my - self a - way; 'Tis all that I can do.

Alas and Did My Savior Bleed, Words: Isaac Watts, 1707. Music: Hugh Wilson, 1800.

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.**

5. Thanks to the Lamb, the lov - ing Lamb, who died on Cal-vary's
tree. The Lamb was slain, yet lives a - gain, to in - ter - cede for me.

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

Chorus

We will feast in the House of Zi - on. We will sing with our hearts re-stored. "He has done great things," we will say to - ge - ther.

Verses

We will feast and weep no more. 1. We will not be burned by the
2. In the dark of night, be-fore the
3. Ev - ery vow we've bro - ken and be-

fire.	He is	the LORD	our God.	We are not con-
dawn,	my soul,	be not	a - fraid.	For the pro-mised
trayed.	You are	the Faith - ful	one.	And from the

sumed by the flood. Up-held, pro-tec - ted, ga - thered up.
morn - ing, oh, how long? Oh, God of Ja - cob, be my strength.
gar - den to the grave, bind us to - ge - ther, bring sha - lom.

We Will Feast, by Sandra McCracken, Westside Anglican Fellowship, Nashville, TN, 2015

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 Fellowship Hall**
- Nursery: Ages 0-4 (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: PreK-8th Grade (Lower Level)
- Sunday School: High School (Youth Room, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Envisioning God's World (All Saints Room, Lower Level)
- Adult Education: How the Universe is Designed for Discovery (Library, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Covenant Life Class (Conference Room, Ed Building)

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Jennie and Ryan Von Drehle, Mark Lester (9:00); Matthew Siefert, Mike FisherDubois, Shane Rector (11:15)

Ushers: Brent Blankenship, Bill Heine, Kim Edison (9:00), Rich Van Der Molen, James Leach (11:15)

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.

COMMON GROUND CLASSES

Covenant Life Class: Join us for our Covenant Life Class taught by the staff. This 6 week class 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. This class meets in the Conference Room of the Education Building at 10:15.

How the Universe is Designed for Discovery: The idea that the universe was designed for life is a central tenet of the Christian faith and a much debated point in philosophy. Less discussed, though no less evocative, is the idea that the universe might be designed not just for life but for discovery! In this series, we will examine some pivotal discoveries in physics which seem to suggest just this. David Hofman (Professor of Physics, University of Illinois Chicago) and Joshua Norton (Professor of Philosophy, Wheaton College) will co-teach this class in the Library of the Education Building. This week, they'll talk about rainbows and stars.

Envisioning God's World: We believe that all good things come from God and point towards him. In this class, we'll look at some concrete ways we see theology in works of art. Each week will center around a theological theme like transcendence, beauty or evil and talk through ways specific works of art expose this truth. Class will meet in the All Saints Room. This week, Martha Metcalfe will talk about art and transcendence.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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: 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) and Devon Spencer (devonspencer1112@gmail.com) will lead this group.

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.

Fall Fest: Join us for Fall Fest on Sunday, October 29 from 5 to 8 pm for dinner and fun fall activities! We'll have games and an inflatable obstacle course in the gym, pumpkin painting in the conference room, and a bonfire in the grassy lot. Costumes are welcome. We're in need of several volunteers to help with the event to decorate and set up at 12:30 that Sunday or assist with activities during the event. Additionally, we need volunteers to bring mac & cheese or desserts. If you're able to help, please contact Ian Troll (ian@covenantchicago.org).

Pickleball at Covenant: Join others from Covenant for pickleball in the gym on some Saturdays from 9 to 11 am. All are welcome to join; instructors will be available if you're new to the sport. Sign up on our website (covenantchicago.org/pickleball/) for upcoming dates: November 4, 18 and 25. Questions? Contact Ian Cull (iancull74@gmail.com).

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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).

October Mercy Bin: This month, Covenant is collecting items to help migrants settle in Chicago as they await their immigration court cases. We are currently collecting pots, pans and blankets through the organization New Life Centers. While these items are their most urgent needs, you can see a list of additional items they are collecting on our website. All items should be brought to Covenant by October 31 and placed in the Mercy Bin, located in the narthex.

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/>.

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.

NEWS AND UPDATES

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.

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
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Dan Adamson
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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, 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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