

Primary Wonder

Days pass when I forget the mystery.
Problems insoluble and problems offering
their own ignored solutions
jostle for my attention, they crowd its antechamber
along with a host of diversions, my courtiers, wearing
their colored clothes; cap and bells.

And then

once more the quiet mystery is present to me, the throng's clamor recedes: the mystery that there is anything, anything at all, let alone cosmos, joy, memory, everything, rather than void: and that, O Lord, Creator, Hallowed One, You still, hour by hour sustain it.

~ Denise Levertov



Sermon Series: The Teaching Jesus Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago 25th Sunday of Pentecost, November 12, 2023 ?? by Jamie Gray **Children's programming** is available during both services on the lower level, see page 16 for details.

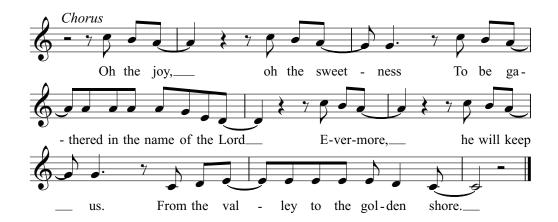
Large Print orders of worship and **devices to improve hearing** are available in the back of the sanctuary.

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



from Psalm 135

Leader: Praise the LORD!

Praise the name of the LORD,

give praise, O servants of the LORD.

All: We stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!

Leader: Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

All: For the LORD has chosen us for himself, we are his own possession.



Oh How Good to be Together, by Kirk Sauers and Paul Ranheim, First Presbyterian, Augusta, GA, 2022

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

moment of silent adoration

O God, we thank you and adore you. You have chosen us for yourself and we are your possession and we find our rest and peace in you.



Holy, Holy, Holy, Words: Reginald Heber, 1826; Music: John B. Dykes, 1861

Leader: Oh the joy and sweetness to be in your house ever singing your praise,
All: Come Holy Spirit and visit us with your presence today. Amen.

Confession of Sin from Romans 8:5-8, 26-28.

Leader:

Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

All: Holy Spirit, help us to set our minds on you.

Help us in our weakness and forgive us our sins.

Intercede for us and strengthen our faith to believe and trust in you. Amen.

Silent time to pray and confess



All I Have is Christ, Words and Music, Jordan Kauflin, Redeemer Church, Arlington, VA, 2008

Assurance of Pardon from Romans 8:34-35, 37

Leader: Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

All: Nothing shall separate us from the love of Christ.
Neither tribulation,
nor distress,
nor persecution,
nor famine,
nor nakedness,
nor danger,
nor sword.

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.



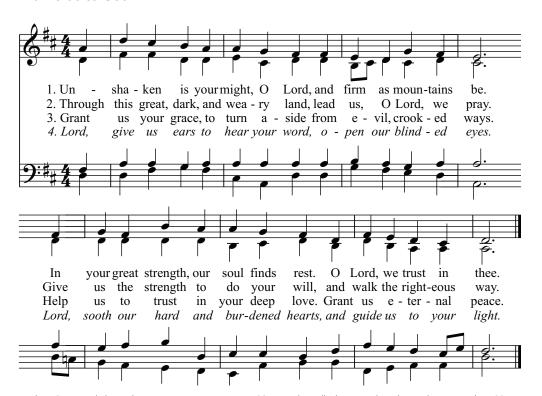
Lessons from the Word

Andy Bilhorn ①, Sharon Durling ②

Old Testament Lesson - Isaiah 27:2-6, p.587 New Testament Lesson - Ephesians 2:4-10, p.976

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God



Psalm 125, Words based on Isaac Watts text, ca 1700s, vs 4 by vdbijl,; music by Alexander Reinagle, 1836

The Word

Pastor Dan Adamson Kingdom of Heaven, Matthew 20:1–16 p.849

1"For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last."

Notes:

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 up to the Lord.

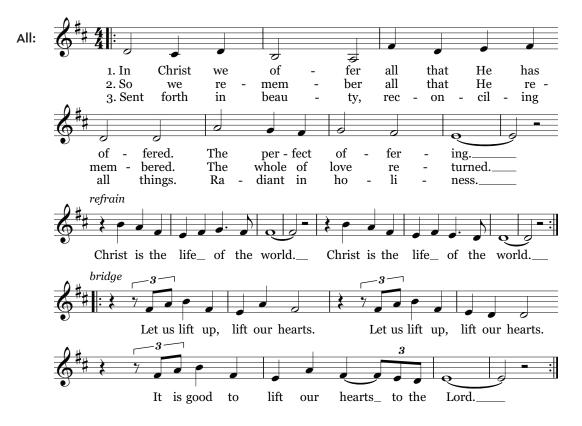
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

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



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.



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 those searching for truth

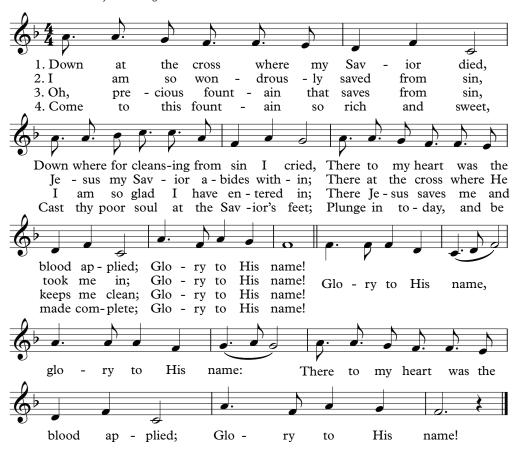
Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, 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:



Down at the Cross, Words: Elisha Hoffman, 1878. Music: John Stockton (1813-1877).

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,

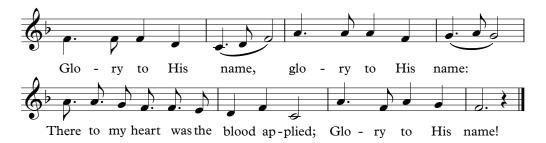
as we await the day of his coming.

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.



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 Kara Shroyer ①, Christie Kay ②

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



The Lord's Prayer, by Paul van der Bijl, 2012, based on the Lord's Prayer, verse 3 based on a Latin hymn

in community

Events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks.



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

Leader: Benediction

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 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 (Fellowship Hall, Ed Building)
- Adult Education: Covenant Life Class (Conference Room, Ed Building)

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Isak Siemens, Melissa Norton, Jonathan Spalink (9:00); Lynda Adamson, Brad and Amy Lewis (11:15)

Ushers: Jonathan Clarke, Margret-Ann Natsis (9:00), Michael Bergstrom, Shane Rector (11:15)

Musicians: James Gay, keys; Paul David Young, electric guitar, keys; Cassidy Miller, vocals; Emma Sowinski, upright bass, Paul van der Bijl, guitar, vocals; sound technician, Joel Miller

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: 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 week, Pastor Aaron will teach about the city and gospel outreach.

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 Fellowship Hall of the Education Building. This week, they'll talk about Dad Bods – Curvature and Expansion. Einstein meets Hubble.

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, Matthew Siefert will teach on brokenness and restoration.

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. 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.

Midnight Clear: Join us for a fun evening of music and carol singing on Sunday, December 10 from 6:00 to 7:15 pm in our sanctuary. There will be a dessert reception to follow in the gym of the Education Building. We're looking for volunteers to help with setup and clean up. If you'd be willing to help, contact office@ 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 18 and 25. Questions? Contact Ian Cull (iancull74@gmail.com).

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Ushers Needed: Ushers are the first people to greet people as they come to Covenant. They pass out the orders of worship, help people find the bathrooms and classrooms, and help at the end of service to clean up the sanctuary. Most ushers serve once a month. If you'd like to join our usher team, please contact Margret-Ann Natsis (margretann.natsis@gmail.com).

November Mercy Bin: This month, Covenant is collecting donations for Breakthrough Urban Ministries and New Moms who are hosting Christmas stores to help families celebrate the joy of the season through gift giving despite financial difficulties. Please consider purchasing items from one of the gift lists on our website (https://covenantchicago.org/mercy-bin/) or pick a gift tag off the Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary. Please return labeled gifts to Covenant's Mercy Bin located in the narthex by November 27 for New Moms or December 10 for Breakthrough. Gifts can also be sent directly to the organizations via their online wish lists.

Breakthrough Christmas Store: This year, Covenant is helping to set up for Breakthrough's Christmas Store on Friday, December 15 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. If you'd be interested in helping, please contact Pastor Dan (dadamson@covenantchicago.org).

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 quests, 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).

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