



**THE TEACHING JESUS**

*Adam Lay Imprisoned*

*Riff on Anonymous 15th Century scribe*

*Adam lay imprisoned,  
captive held, and bound,  
and we are held there with him  
'til mercy may be found.*

*Bound to recall betrayal—  
his own and Eve's that day;  
bound to the death of Abel—  
he cannot look away.*

*Bound to see us repeat it  
each generation since.  
Bound to the loss of Eden;  
bound to lose all his sons*

*'til one shall come unbinding,  
come breaking all the chains,  
'til one whose light comes blinding  
shall touch the heart of Cain.*

*And all who weep with Adam,  
and all who tasted death  
shall rise from deep in shadow,  
shall taste of heaven's bread.*

*And all whose chains are broken  
mourn Adam's choice no more  
for heaven's gates stand open  
now and forevermore.*

*~ Kate Bluett*



*Sermon Series: The Teaching Jesus  
Covenant Presbyterian Church of Chicago  
27th Sunday of Pentecost, November 26, 2023  
Collage 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



1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, in light, in - ac -  
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light, nor want - ing, nor  
3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small, in all life thou

ces - si - ble, hid from our eyes, most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the  
wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might; thy jus - tice like moun tains, high  
liv - est, the true life of all. We blos - som and flour - ish as

An - cient of Days, Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.  
soar - ing a - bove, thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
leaves on the tree, and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang eth thee.

*Immortal, Invisible, Words: Walter C. Smith, 1876., Music: St. Denio, Welsh melody, 1839*

# Call to Worship

from Genesis 1, Isaiah 55, and Psalm 8

Leader: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and it was good.

All: **God said "let there be light" and it was good.**

Leader: God said "let there be land and water" and it was good.

All: **God made us in his image, and it was very good.**

Leader: Let us go out with joy and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills will sing; the trees of the field will clap their hands.  
And we will all shout:

All: **O LORD, our Lord, You are good!**



1. Praise the Lord all praise and bless - ing. Rend - er to His migh - ty name. \_\_\_  
2. Stars a - bove in bril - liant glo - ry. Sun that scat - ters wide its gold. \_\_\_



Thank Him ev - er for His good - ness. Now and ev - er mo - re the same. \_\_\_  
Birds a - loft all join the chor - us. ev - ery crea - ture young and old. \_\_\_



Now and ev - er mo re the same. \_\_\_ He cre - a - ted ear - th and hea - ven.  
ev - ery crea - ture young. and old. \_\_\_ Hills and moun - tains raise their voi - ces.



Deep - est sea and all there - in. \_\_\_ Small est cre - ture high - est be - ing.  
Trees and for - ests clap their hands. \_\_\_ E - ven stones will not be si - lent.



Let your an - thems now be - gin. \_\_\_ Let your an - thems now be gin. \_\_\_  
Sing his praise through - out the lands. \_\_\_ Sing his praise through out the lands. \_\_\_

Chorus



Ev - 'ry thing that You \_\_\_ have made is beau - ti - ful.



Ev - 'ry thing that You \_\_\_ have made is good. \_\_\_

*Praise the Lord All Praise and Blessing, Words and Music, Matt Scott, 2013, addl. text, vdBijl, 2017*

# Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

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prayer of adoration

Leader: Holy Father, everything that you have made is beautiful and good and we are overwhelmed with joy that you have made us in your image. We thank you and with all of creation sing of your glory.

All: Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
**visit us with your glorious presence today. Amen.**

*silent moment of meditation*

Chorus

Ev - 'ry thing that You\_\_ have made is beau - ti - ful.

Ev - 'ry thing that You\_\_ have made is good.\_\_

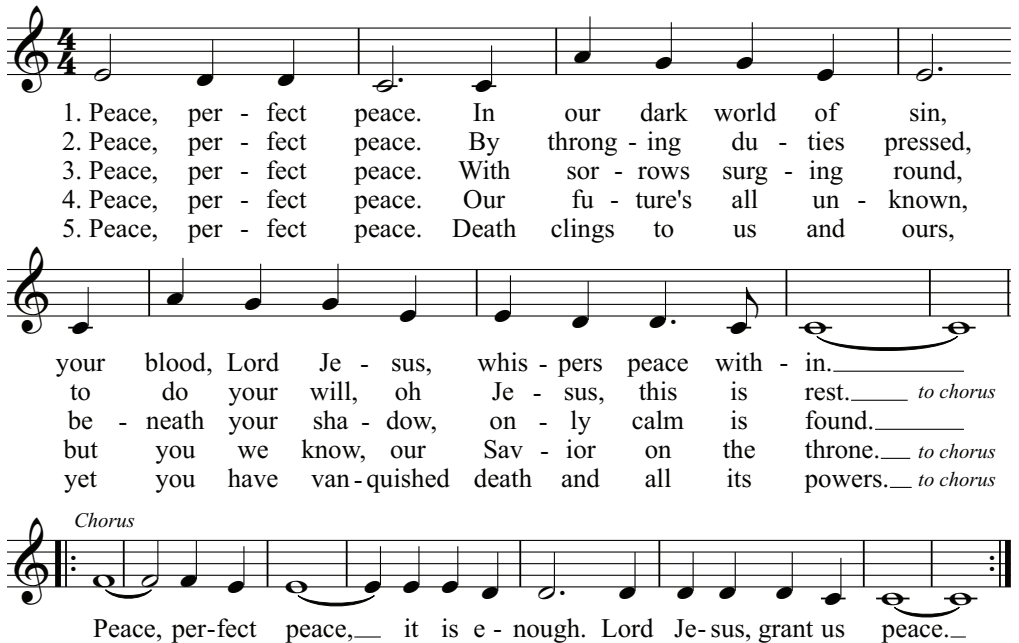
# Confession of Sin

from Matthew 11:28-30

Leader: *And Jesus said: "Come to me, all who are weary and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

**All: Gracious God,  
we are weary and our sins and anxieties are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.  
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,  
and our tendency to find rest and peace in anything but your mercy and grace.  
O Lord, grant us peace for our souls.**

## Sing to Confess



1. Peace, per - fect peace. In our dark world of sin,  
2. Peace, per - fect peace. By thron - ing du - ties pressed,  
3. Peace, per - fect peace. With sor - rows surg - ing round,  
4. Peace, per - fect peace. Our fu - ture's all un - known,  
5. Peace, per - fect peace. Death clings to us and ours,  
your blood, Lord Je - sus, whis - pers peace with - in.\_\_\_\_\_ to chorus  
to do your will, oh Je - sus, this is rest.\_\_\_\_\_ to chorus  
be - neath your sha - dow, on - ly calm is found.\_\_\_\_\_ to chorus  
but you we know, our Sav - ior on the throne.\_\_\_\_\_ to chorus  
yet you have van - quished death and all its powers.\_\_\_\_\_ to chorus

*Chorus*  
Peace, per - fect peace, it is e - nough. Lord Je - sus, grant us peace.\_\_\_\_\_

*Peace, Perfect Peace: Words, Edward Bickersteth, 1875; Music and addl. words, Paul van der Bijl, 2020*

*moment of silent prayer*

# Assurance of Pardon


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from Colossians 3:3-4

Leader: *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

## Sing to Assure

*Chorus*



Peace, per-fect peace, — it is e - nough. Lord Je-sus, grant us peace. —

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It begins with a repeat sign. The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with a long horizontal line under the word 'peace' at the end of the phrase.

# Lessons from the Word

Ben Harvey ①, Taylor Nesse ②

Old Testament Lesson -  
New Testament Lesson -

Psalm 107.1-9, p.506  
James 1.2-4, p.1011

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

1. O Breath of Life, come sweep-ing through us.  
2. O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,  
Re- vive your church with life and pow'r. O Breath of Life, come cleanse re-  
'til humbly we con- fess our need. Then in your ten- der - ness, re-  
new us and fit\_ your church to meet this hour.  
make us. Re- vive, re - store, for this we plead.  
O Breath of Love, come breathe with - in us,  
re - new-ing thought and will and heart. Come, love of Christ, a - fresh to  
win us. Re vive\_ your church in ev - ery part.

*O Breath of Life, Words: Bessie Porter Head, 1920; Music Andy Piercy, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, London UK, 2006*



# The Word

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Pastor Aaron Baker

He Lifted up His Eyes, Luke 6:20–26 p.862

<sup>20</sup> And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

Notes:

# Sacrament of Communion

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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](http://covenantchicago.org/give), use the QR code on page 15, or text a donation amount to 84321.*

The musical score is written for a four-part setting in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef staff with a soprano line and a bass clef staff with an alto line. The second system has a treble clef staff with a tenor line and a bass clef staff with a bass line. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all bles-sings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men." The music features a mix of chords and moving lines, with some notes marked with a fermata.

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

# The Great Thanksgiving, by Samuel Wells, vicar, St. Martin-in-the-fields, Church of England, 2016

Leader: As we approach your table, grant us the peace with each other that we find in you so that we can come to this feast united in love. Accept now our offerings of bread, wine and gifts to you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to the work of your kingdom.

**All: Your Spirit brooded over the waters  
before the foundation of the world.**

Leader: Your pillar of fire led your people to freedom  
through the waters of the Red Sea.

**All: Your son Jesus came to his disciples  
across the stormy waves of Galilee.**

Leader: In his agonizing death we see how far we stray from you,  
and in his resurrection we see how you draw us close  
despite our betrayals and failures.

**All: We long for the day when all the saints adore you,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea,**

Leader: 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.**



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

# Distribute the Bread & Cup

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Please note that we serve both red wine and white grape juice.  
Gluten free bread is available in a separate dish.

## **Receiving Communion**

Communion (also called The Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the family meal of baptized Christians. We invite all to partake of this sacrament who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and seek strength to live more faithfully for him.

## **Silent prayers for reflection**

*Prayer for 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. God is my strong sal - va - tion; What foe have I to fear.  
2. Place on our Christ re - li - ance; My soul, with cour - age wait;  
3. In Christ his love a - bid - ing, no change my heart shall fear  
4. To God, the ev - er glor - ious The Fa - ther and the Son,



In dark - ness and temp - ta - tion, My light, my help is near.  
His Spi - rit my as - sur - ance, When faint and des - o - late.  
and safe is such con - fid - ing, For noth - ing chang - es here.  
And Spi - rit All vic - tor - ious, the ho - ly Three in One.



Tho' hosts en - camp a - round me, Firm in the fight I stand;  
The cross of Christ will strength - en, His love my joy in - crease;  
The storm may roar a - round me, my heart may low be laid;  
God is my strong sal - va - tion, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore,



What ter - ror can con - found me, with God at my right hand?  
Mer - cy my days will length - en, for He will give me peace.  
but Christ is right be - side me, and he will give me aid.  
Praise, glo - ry, a - do - ra - tion, be now and e - ver - more.



All glo - ry, laud and ho - nor to you, re - deem - er, king.



All glo - ry, laud and ho - nor to you, re - deem - er, king.

Wedlock, Words: James Montgomery, 1822, Music, Traditional American Melody, 1844, chorus & arr. vdBijl, 2023

## Respond to the Table

Leader: Remembering your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we take from your creation this bread and this wine  
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,  
as we await the day of his coming.  
With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you  
to be a living and holy sacrifice  
dedicated to your service.

All: **Great is this mystery of faith:  
Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

4. Great Fa-ther of glo-ry, pure Fa-ther of light, thine an-gels a -  
dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; all praise we would ren - der; O  
help us to see: 'tis on - ly the splen-dor of light hid-eth thee!

## 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:

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.*

## 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

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## 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 bagels available in the Fellowship Hall

## Advent and Christmas Calendar:

**December 3:** First Sunday of Advent.

**December 10:** Second Sunday of Advent.

Midnight Clear Concert, 6pm, Dessert reception following

**December 17:** Third Sunday of Advent

**December 24:** Fourth Sunday of Advent, A Service of Lessons & Carols, only one service at 10:15 am (nursery provided for children (0-4); no Common Ground

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 pm (nursery provided for children 0-4)

**January 31:** Only one service at 10:15 am (nursery provided for children 0-4); no Common Ground

## Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Alyssa and Brent Blankenship, Linda Gehrs (9:00); Larissa Bossemeyer, Rich Lane (11:15)

Ushers: James Leach, Leslie Lucas (9:00), Jon Skinner (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

**No Classes During Common Ground:** Covenant Sunday schools, Common Ground nurseries and adult classes will take a break today for the holiday weekend. Please join us between services for bagels in the Fellowship Hall. All regular Common Ground activities will resume next week.

**Waiting:** The church waits expectantly for Christ to complete his work in us and our world. We are all waiting for something. What does it look like for us to wait faithfully? In this three-week Advent class taught by women on the Spiritual Formation team, we will explore our own seasons of waiting and how God meets us in them. We will hear personal stories from some of Covenant's own people and look to specific stories in scripture that point us to the tasks, transition and transformation of waiting and how those can lead us to anticipation, trust and hope. Class will meet at 10:15 in the All Saints Room beginning December 3.

**The Once and Future King:** Prophecy, Incarnation & Apocalypse. Advent gathers up all of time for God's people. In Advent, we remember the ancient promises of a coming King, we celebrate the mystery of Incarnation, and we anticipate a second Advent of Jesus in glory. Join us for this 3-week class that will trace the theological themes of Advent through time. Class will begin December 3 in the Library at 10:15.



## 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).

**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 and to bring desserts for the reception. 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: December 2, 16, 23 and 30. 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 Margaret-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. We're also collecting Amazon or grocery gift cards for refugees and asylum-seekers through World Relief. 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).

**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 additional 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. We are in particular need of female mentors, as many of the students are girls. Please reach out to Linda Kim (lindakim5@gmail.com) to learn more.

**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

**Youth Group Bake Sale:** Covenant's Youth Group is holding their annual bake sale fundraiser during Common Ground on Sunday, December 10. All money raised will go toward offsetting costs for their upcoming winter retreat at Camp Timber-lee in February. Everyone is invited to "pay what you can" for the various treats and either bring them home or contribute them to the Midnight Clear dessert reception that evening. Questions? Contact Ian Troll ([ian@covenantchicago.org](mailto:ian@covenantchicago.org)).

**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](mailto:devotional@covenantchicago.org) to sign up.

**Meals Ministry:** The Meals Ministry cares for our community by providing occasional meals to individuals and families. If you have recently experienced health problems, have welcomed a new child into your family, or have suffered a loss, please visit [covenantchicago.org/meals-ministry/](http://covenantchicago.org/meals-ministry/) to request a meal. The Meals Ministry also seeks volunteers to cook and deliver meals, and you can sign up to volunteer through the website link. Questions? Contact [meals@covenantchicago.org](mailto:meals@covenantchicago.org).

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

**Sermon Text Next Week: Psalm 94:1-15**



Giving QR Code

Pastoral Staff

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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](http://covenantchicago.org)