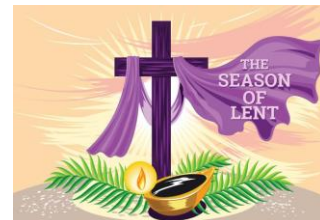
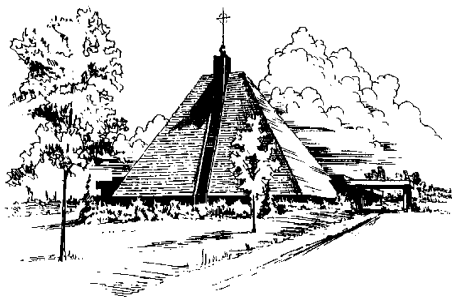


# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CINNAMINSON, NEW JERSEY



1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 AM

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

**PRELUDE**

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Fredrick Charles Maker

**GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER**

Betty Herskovitz

**CHORAL INTROIT**

"For God So Loved the World"

Smith

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Here, at the outer limits of Lent, we are called to walk:

**to the paper-thin edges which cut us to the soul; to the workplaces which weary us; to the people who confuse us; to the faith which threatens us.**

Here, at the corner of Steadfast Love and Faithfulness, we are called to wait:

**when our clenched stomachs awaken us; in the moments of unbearable sorrow; with the angels who would carry us.**

Here, where time is fulfilled, where God's Kingdom is as near to us

**as our neighbor, we begin Lent: with the Beloved, whose tears wash away our fears, with the God who will not let go of our hands.**

With prayer and praise, in scripture and in song, let us Worship the Living God!

**HYMN**

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

(See page 8)

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Forgive the silly sins of childhood, the exuberant sins of adolescence, the faded sins of aging; forgive the sins we shout in the streets, the sins we whisper to ourselves; forgive the sins we didn't give a second thought to, the sins we plot in the middle of the night; forgive the flood of sins which threaten us, the wilderness of sin which we offer to others, the sin which seeks to imprison us: forgive.**

**Forgive us, Good and Gentle God, forgive us and have mercy on us, so we might walk the path of faithfulness with Jesus, to Jerusalem and beyond, so we might know your steadfast love in our lives.**

**SILENT MEDITATION**

**LORD HAVE MERCY (3x)**

576 Lord, Have Mercy



Lord, have mer - cy.  
Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**Through the wilderness and into the kingdom of life, we are given daily bread for every day of the journey. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**WE ARE FORGIVEN (1x)**

FORGIVENESS  
447 We Are Forgiven



We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.  
We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### MARK 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Glory to you, Lord Christ!**

### ANTHEM

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

arr. Raney

### PSALM 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

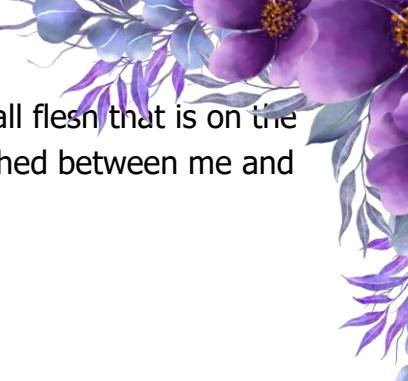
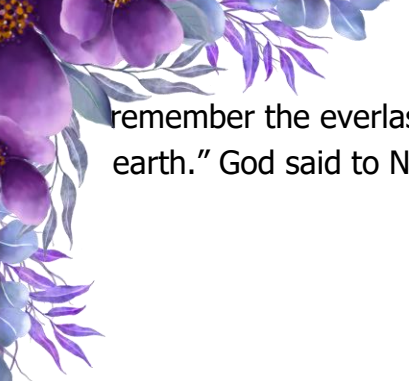
**Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

### GENESIS 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and



remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

"Never Again"

Rev. Robert Higgs

**PRAYER AND REFLECTION**

If you wish, you may want to use the following breath prayer (or any of your choice). The words may be said aloud or in silence

Breathe in: "Help me rest ...

Breathe out: "... give me peace"

**HYMN**

"God of the Sparrow"

(See page 9)

**LITANY FOR LENT**

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs. We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child. We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine. We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us. This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

*— from *Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide*, posted on the website of Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba*



**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the church.....God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for creation..... God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**





Let us pray for the world.....God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for peace.....God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who govern us. ....God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for this community.....God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all families and those who live alone.....God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who suffer any sorrow or trial.....God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us give thanks for the lives of the departed who now have rest in God.

## CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

### OFFERTORY

"Amazing Grace"

Keveren

### DOXOLOGY

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings"

#809

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

### THE LORD'S 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

### HYMN

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

(See page 10)

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go out into the world ... be with us all. Amen.

**O Lord, may you this week open up doors for us to share your love!**

### CHORAL RESPONSE

"Amen"

L. Larson

### POSTLUDE

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

Martin Herbst

**MINISTERS:** Cheryl and Anthony Cinque (Ushers), Diane Steel (Refreshments), Cynthia Joffe (Flower Delivery)

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** presented to the Glory of God by Frank Reed in loving memory of Dorothy Harder on her birthday.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **1. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cinnaminson, New Jersey, is called for Sunday, February 25 2024, to be held in the Sanctuary following morning worship services, for purposes of receiving annual reports from Session Leadership Teams and Committees and from other church organizations; receiving the financial report for 2023; presenting the operating budget that has been adopted by the Session for 2024; electing members to serve on the Financial Audit Committee for 2024; and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the Congregation or Corporation at this meeting.

### **2. THANK YOU!**

The mission team wishes to thank everyone for their help and support for our inaugural "Sunday Soup Sale." We made a profit of \$400 which will be used to help support our local missions. **The next soup sale will be Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.** If you are willing to make some soup for our next sale, please contact Mary Lou at 609-417-5639. Thank you!

### **3. MUSIC AND WORSHIP**

The Music and Worship Team will be having a meeting on Sunday February 18 after worship services in the lounge.

### **4. TRIBORO SCHEDULE:**

Bethany Lutheran Church will be hosting a soup supper on Tuesday, March 7 at 6PM followed by a service at 7PM. Calvary will be hosting a soup supper on Tuesday, February 27 at 6PM with a service at 7PM. Covenant will be hosting a soup supper on Thursday, March 14 at 6PM with a service at 7PM. All are welcome to attend these Lenten services!

**5. SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES:** Calling all children ages 4 and above! Join us for Sunday school on the following dates! February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **6. LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP**

Covenant will be hosting lunch after worship services on Sunday February 25. The signup sheet is located on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please place your name on the signup sheet so we have a head count. Thank you!

### **7. PHOTO ALBUM**

One of our members, Grace Hafner, has compiled a beautiful photo album of many wonderful memories over the years at Covenant. Take time during refreshments to view this special book. If you do not have time after the service, the album will be available in the main office during office hours.

### **8. DAILY PRAYER**

Covenant is now offering Daily Prayer videos narrated by our new Pastor, Bob! This is a wonderful way to begin each day in prayer. If you are not receiving them, please notify Bob, or Greg and you will be placed on the email list.

### **9. FLOWER CHART**

The flower chart is posted on the bulletin board for 2024. Sign your name on a specific date in order to dedicate flowers to a loved one.

**10. YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED!** Members are invited to participate in our services. Please contact Bonnie Cain or Greg DiBona if you are interested in reading scripture or leading our worship services. We are also in need of more volunteers to operate the camera and soundboard. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

**11. BIBLE STUDY** The Bible Study will be located in the lounge on Mondays at 11AM. All are welcome!

**12. STEWARDSHIP:** Total Income for 2/11: 6971.00, Envelope Giving: \$1220.00, Deacons Fund: \$80.00, Mission: \$400.00.

**13. VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN AIDES** are needed throughout the Virtua Health System in Burlington and Camden counties. There are openings for trained lay visitors every day of the week. Following a training and orientation process, and Aide may donate two to four hours each week to visit patients, offering them compassion and spiritual comfort. To find out if volunteering is for you, please call or email for an information package with details of the training and the process to become a volunteer at any of our facilities. The orientation class is Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8am-5pm.

For more information about volunteering at Virtua Burlington, Virtua Marlton, Virtua Mt. Holly and Virtua Voorhees, please contact Chaplin Marge McGinley at 609-914-6365 or email [mmcginkey@virtua.org](mailto:mmcginkey@virtua.org).

## PRAYER LIST



What a fine worship service today with the Scouts and their families attending and the young men participating in the service! Thank you to all of them and to their leaders! Our sincere appreciation to Pastor Bob for his enthusiasm and interesting sermon and to Mandy for updating us on upcoming activities. Thank you to Kevin Hill on percussion for his contribution to the anthem. Thank you to the Scout parents for providing goodies and to Mary Lou for organizing homemade soups for sale as a help in providing support to local missions.

Please keep praying for peace in our communities, country and world.

Please pray for our Covenant friends and families:

Joyful and thankful prayers welcoming Treva and Carol back following 3 months of struggling health issues

Betty Graham - prayers for healing and a lift in spirits as she deals with difficult health issues

Julia Slater - prayers that she will be able to have her second hip replacement very soon and good results as she had with her first one

B. Ann and Dave DuBois - able to have relief from various health concerns

Terri and Ken Bell - comfort and rest for Terri, long time cancer patient, and strength for Ken as he takes very good care of her

Lisa Grace - relief and rest from many health concerns

Kathy Hood - able to rest in comfort and deal with memory loss from stroke

Laura Brenner - feeling better while receiving good care

Barbara Van Tassel's friend, Judy - making good progress with rehabilitation

Karen Schwartz's neighbor's grandson, Colin - relief from bleeding problem

Bruce - prayers for very good care as he prepares to be treated for pancreatic cancer

Carol's, Elsie - hospitalized following a bad fall in her home last evening

# Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

## 166

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and  
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend and did the vic - tory  
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas - sion -  
 4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fer - ing shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.  
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.  
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.  
 past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.



# 22

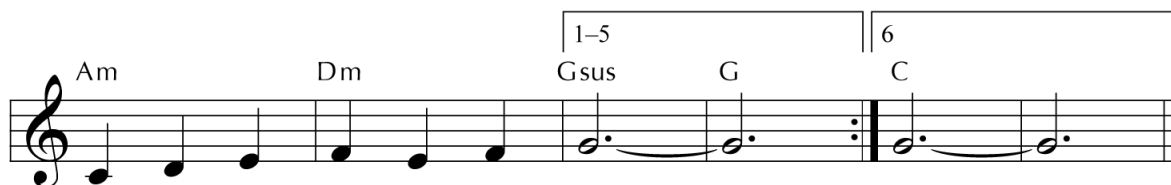
## God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the  
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the  
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the  
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe  
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe  
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace  
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care  
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love  
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise  
 How does the crea - ture cry Save  
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
 How does the crea - ture say Life  
 How does the crea - ture say Peace  
 How do your chil - dren say Home

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

# O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my  
2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my  
3 O Joy that seek-est me through pain, I can-not  
4 O Cross that lift-est up my head, I dare not

wea-ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that  
flick-ering torch to thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that  
close my heart to thee; I trace the rain-bow through the rain, and  
ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo-ry dead, and

in thine o-cean depths its flow may rich-er, full-er be.  
in thy sun-shine's blaze its day may bright-er, fair-er be.  
feel the prom-ise is not vain that morn shall tear-less be.  
from the ground there blos-soms red life that shall end-less be.

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

TEXT: George Matheson, 1881, alt.  
MUSIC: Albert Lister Peace, 1884, alt.

ST. MARGARET  
8.8.8.8.6