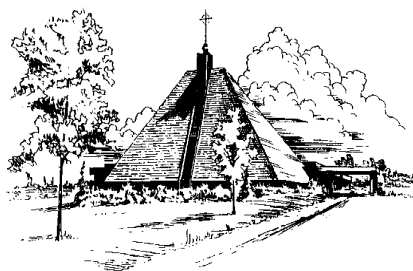


COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CINNAMINSON, NEW JERSEY



5th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

10:00 AM

February 4, 2024

PRELUDE

"Meditation on "How Great Thou Art"

John Carter

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

Scott Scioli

Holy Spirit living within us, guide our hearts and minds as we welcome today all those who worship with us at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Give us discerning hearts so that everyone who crosses our threshold feels welcomed in the spirit of your love. Help us to recognize each person as an individual sent by you who will enrich our lives. And most of all, O God, let this be a place of love and acceptance of all your children; in the name of your child, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT

"In Joyous Praise"

L. Larson

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship God, whose creative imagination never fails:

For the sake of God, we will search for the outcasts.

We gather to praise our God, whose steadfast love never weakens:

For the sake of Jesus, we will lift up all who have fallen.

We gather to offer our best to God, who walks with us through eternity:

For the sake of the Holy Spirit, we will walk with the weary.

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

HYMN

"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

(See page 11)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We cannot hide from you, Everlasting God, even if we were to go from one edge of creation to the next. you speak to us of compassion, but the ways in which we treat others show we have not been listening. You explain your hopes to us, and we act as if

we don't have a clue as to what is going on. We run as fast, and as far, from you as we can, and wonder why we have no energy to follow Jesus. Yet you search for us in all the deserted places we flee to, Never-wearied God, so you can take us by the hand to show us the way to life with you. You heal our broken hearts so we can offer them to others. You fill us with your strength so we can bind ourselves to Jesus, our Savior, following him to serve all of your children.

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

Have you not been listening. God never tires out, nor is there is an expiration date on God's forgiveness. God is ever with us, healing us with mercy, and strengthening us for service.

If God numbers the stars, surely our names are known by the One who loves us and offers us grace. This is indeed good news for all! 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 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Glory to You, Lord Christ!

ANTHEM

"Behold the Lamb"

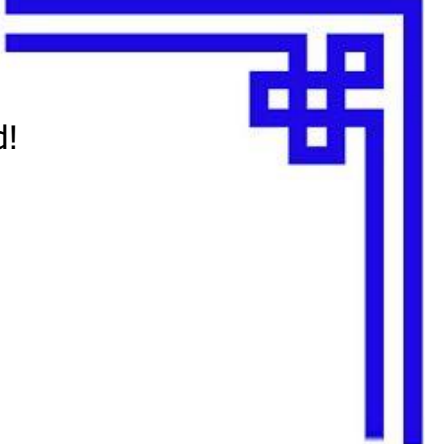
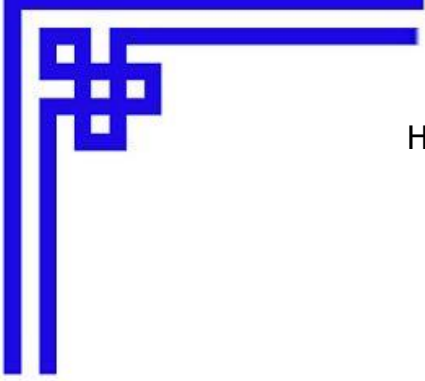
Getty and Townend

PSALM 147:1-11, 20

REFRAIN

$\text{♩} = 126$ C Gm C B \flat Gm7 C

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!
The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.
The LORD heals the | brokenhearted
and binds | up their wounds.
The LORD counts the number | of the stars
and calls them all | by their names.

[Refrain]

Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.
The LORD lifts | up the lowly,
but casts the wicked | to the ground.
Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp | to our God,
who covers the heav- | ens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth,
making grass to grow up- | on the mountains.

[Refrain]

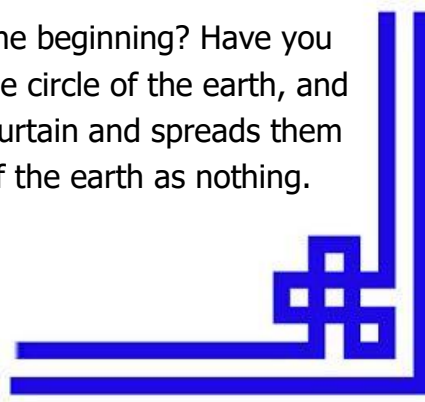
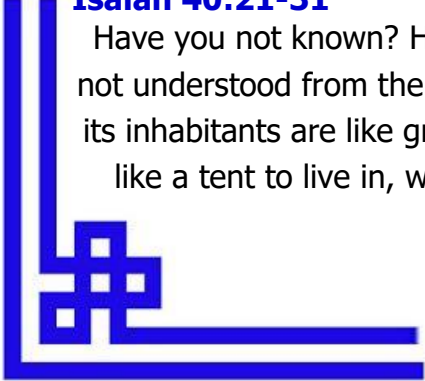
God provides food | for the cattle
and for the young ravens | when they cry.
God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,
but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,
in those who await God's | steadfast love.
The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

[Refrain]

Let us Pray:

Loving God, great builder of the heavenly Jerusalem, you know the number of the stars and call them by name. Heal hearts that are broken, gather those who have been scattered, and enrich us all from the fullness of your eternal wisdom, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Isaiah 40:21-31



Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them like a tent to live in, who brings princes to naught and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom, then, will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"On Eagles Wings"

Rev. Robert Higgs

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

We pause to reflect on the message

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

"I Danced in the Morning"

(See page 12)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has

spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

Havergal and Malan

DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings”

#809

OFFERTORY PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SURSUM CORDA

May God be with you.

May God be also with you.

People of God, open your hearts.

We open our hearts to God and to each other.

Let us give thanks to the Living God.

With joy and praise, we offer our thanks to the One who offers abundant life.

GREAT THANKSGIVING 1

In the morning, Awakening God,..... we lift our praises to you now and forever:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

GREAT THANKSGIVING 2

Holy are you, Star Namer, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son.....may we find that mystery we call faith:

CHRIST HAS DIED

GREAT THANKSGIVING 3

Here is that Bread, ...God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen.

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

(See page 14)

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

"Go Out in Song"

L. Larson

POSTLUDE

"Thy Word"

John Carter

MINISTERS: Robin and Dave Sutton (Ushers), Christy Jeffries (Refreshments), Linda Ballenger (Flower Delivery), Cynthia Joffe (Chancel)

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS presented to the Glory of God by Carol Ortlip in remembrance of her husband, Bill at the time of his death thirteen years ago.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. CHRISTIAN CARING CENTER

Non-perishable food items may be brought the 1st Sunday of the month and placed in the narthex. Thank you for your continued generosity.

2. 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!

3. THANK YOU NOTE FROM TREVA

Dear Covenant Family,

Words cannot express how thankful I am to belong to such a caring, thoughtful church family. Thank you so much for all your love, support and prayers during my recent illness. Thank you for the many cards I received. It's been a struggle but your love has helped me get through the tough times.

Thanks also to Pastor Bob for his visits and poinsettia he brought me to decorate my room.

God Bless All!

Love,

Treva

4. 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.

5. SUNDAY SOUP SALE

SUNDAY, February 11th after Service.

All proceeds from the Sale will benefit the Missions that we support locally and abroad enabling us to do more for those in need.

There will be 4 different homemade soups plus Chili. Quarts will be \$10.00 and pints \$5.00

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to make a homemade soup for a future sale please contact

Mary Lou Newborg

609-417-5639

6. BIBLE STUDY WITH BOB!

To get the new year started, Pastor Bob invites you to join an online Bible Study to be presented over **Zoom on Wednesdays at 7pm**. Sign in from home! Dress however you like!

The Zoom app is available on computer, phones and iPads and can easily downloaded from the App Store (Apple) or the Google Play App.

You will get an email on Tuesday and Wednesday with a study guide and log in code.

Unlike other Bible Studies you might have been part of, in this one we will be studying the great themes of the Bible which are found in almost every book.

February 7 – Eternal Life

We'll take a break starting on Ash Wednesday, February 14, as we join our neighboring churches in the celebration of Lent with soup, supper and worship.

Each meeting will feature a short video produced an organization called the Bible Project (www.bibleproject.com). The BibleProject is a nonprofit, crowdfunded organization that produces 100% free Bible videos, podcasts, articles, classes, and educational Bible resources to help make the biblical story accessible to everyone everywhere.

We will discuss the ideas presented in each video for about 30-45 minutes and end with prayer. The studies will be recorded and uploaded to our website in case you missed it.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

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

11. STEWARDSHIP: Total Income for 1/28: \$3455.00, Envelope Giving: \$3205.00, Deacons Fund: \$135.00, Capital Improvements Fund: \$10.00.



PRAYER LIST



Prayers for all those affected by war and for peace in our communities, country and world.

Thank you to Pastor Bob for his sermon and for good information regarding daily Bible readings and online study one evening a week. Thank you to Mary Lou for leading us in Scripture reading and current activities at Covenant. Linda provided us with a hot cup of coffee and goodies. Thank you. What a treat to see the wonderful scrapbook of our many members and activities over the years put together by Grace Hafner. It will be in the church office for anyone to come and enjoy.
Thank you, Grace!

Our prayers for Covenant friends and families:

Treva and her daughters, Carol and Nancy, are recovering from Covid. Thankful prayers for gaining strength and feeling better
Christy Jeffries - prayers for comfort and peace for her and her family upon the death of her dad this past week
Betty Graham - healing prayers for her legs and gaining strength
Julia Slater - healing and able to walk without discomfort following hip replacement several weeks ago
Janette Hutchinson - lessening of discomfort and pain following a fall during the snow
Betty Herskovitz - prayers for good results following treatment for painful back
B. Ann and Dave DuBois - dealing with health issues - thankful that they were in church
Terri and Ken Bell - comfort and rest for Terri and strength for Ken as he takes very good care of her
Linda Ballenger - good results from treatment for her cousin due to cancer
Barbara Van Tassel - healing for her friend, Judy, due to a fall
Peggie Massey - longtime friend and member - thankful prayers that she is well living in Texas
Laura Brenner - recovering from stomach problem
Kelly Higgs - prayers for her dad, Bud Damon, dealing with health issues and diabetes
Karen Schwartz' neighbor's grandson, Colin - able to diagnose and receive effective treatment for bleeding
Carol's son, Bruce - very good information and treatment as he meets with oncologist

305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

157 I Danced in the Morning

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)
 F Dm Am Dm

1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
 3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. †

(Em) (A)
 Gm C

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They
 I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)
 F Dm Am Dm

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me, †

(Em) (A7) (G) (D)
 Gm C7 Bb F


Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die.
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the life of Christ, though written for this Shaker tune, has many similarities with the pre-Reformation carol "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Such narrative carols were common both at Christmas and as part of medieval mystery plays.

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE


Refrain

(F#m) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)
Am Dm Am Dm F Dm




Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)
Gm C F Dm F C7 F



Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Gm C7 F B^b F



and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12



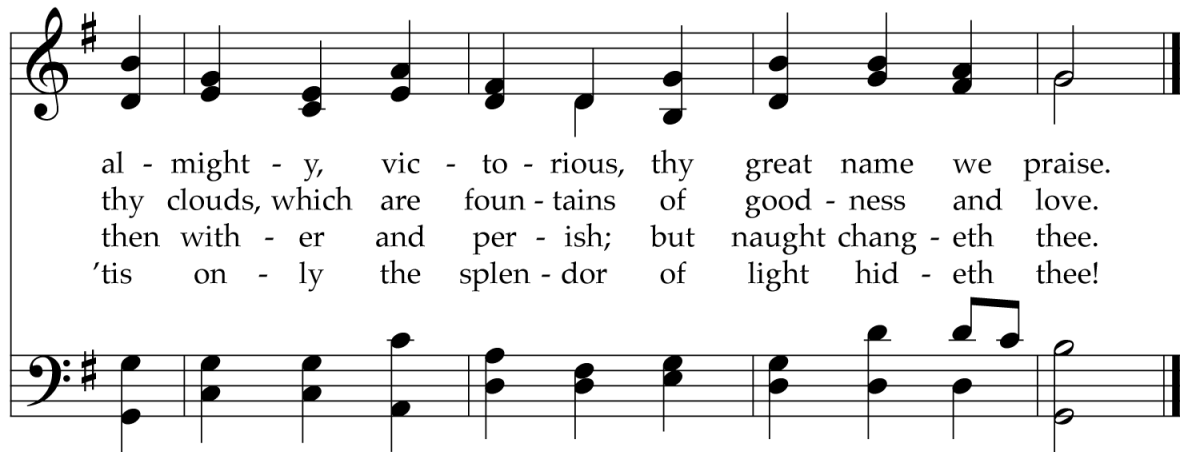
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!