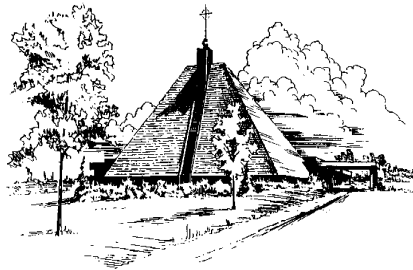


COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CINNAMINSON, NEW JERSEY



2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

10:00 AM

JANUARY 14, 2024

PRELUDE

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

In the silence of a lonely night, in the songs children sing in the morning, God calls to us.

We are here, God who is always with us, listening for your words of life and love.

When we would decide to go it alone, when we think no good can be found anywhere, Jesus calls to us.

We are here, Friend who knows our longings, ready to come and see where you would lead us.

When we think we have license to do whatever we want, when we are convinced we need no map, the Spirit calls to us.

We are here, Peace we are longing for, so that we might help others find the way to life.

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

HYMN

"God of Our Life"

(See page 11)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are foolish enough to think you do not know our hearts, hear our words, see the mistakes we make, and the pain we cause. But because you are not only holy and know, you are gracious and forgive. Hear us now, as we offer our lives and hearts to you, praying together,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

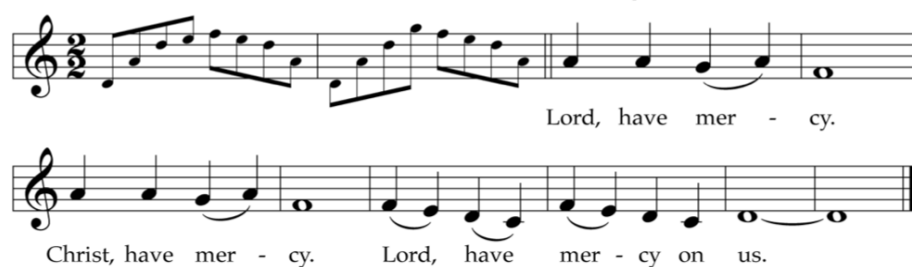
Because we are so focused on ourselves, God of every life, it is hard to see the lives which others endure. When we are so worried about how the economy will affect us, we do not notice those in need around us. As we grumble about our aches and pains, and about how difficult it is to get out of the bed each day, we easily ignore the broken.

Forgive us, God of goodness and grace. Speak to us of healing, so we might bring help to others. Speak to us of grace, so hearing, we may share it with everyone we meet. Speak to us of love and life, so we may offer it as freely as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, brought it to us.

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

Hear the good news and be a peace with yourself:
Come and see! God grace is poured out on everyone, God's hope is freely shared in every moment, forgiveness is the gift which mends our foolish lives.

Thanks be to God. We are surrounded by God's love and mercy, now and to the very end! 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

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

1 SAMUEL 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.

On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am."
Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me.

May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

"Yes, My Jesus Loves Me"

arr. McDonald

PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you,

when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

JOHN 1: 43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from

Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an

Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

"Calling and Finding"

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: "I want to know you ..."

Breathe out: "... and the power of your resurrection"

HYMN

"Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

(See page 12)

LITANY: THE LIGHT OF GOD HAS COME!

Come and see!

The light of God has come into our world to proclaim God's justice and love; It has overcome the darkness and brought new life.

Come and follow!

Christ our companion has redeemed our world He draws us into a loving family From every tribe and family and culture.

Go and tell!

The Spirit has equipped us for service To love our neighbors as we do ourselves To bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

Come and see, come and follow, go and tell!

In God's Love the nations of the earth will put their hope.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for our salvation, let us pray to the
Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the unity of the church of God, and for the well-being of all peoples,
let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For this gathering of the faithful, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to
the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all the baptized, for all who serve in the church, for elders and pastors, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the rulers of the nations as we pray for Joe our President, Cory and Robert our Senators, Philip
our Governor, Andy our Representative, and the Justices of the Supreme Court. Let us pray to the
Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this town of Cinnaminson, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us
pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for abundant harvests for all to share, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to
the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel by land, water, or air, or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphaned, and for the sick and the suffering, let us
pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for those unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives,
and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance in times of affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For blessings and mercies we have received and need:

Lord, have mercy.

For all your children to know the peace and joy of your supporting care, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

May we not hide our gifts from our Loving God, but instead offer them to the Lord with trust and hope, so all may join us on the journey to God's kingdom of grace and hope, peace and healing. The offerings for the work of the church will now be received.

OFFERTORY

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

by Bradbury

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings"

#809

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We are hesitant to offer our gifts in this moment, Loving God, because in the back of our minds we wonder if any good will come of helping the poor, feeding the hungry, reaching out to the stranger. But by your grace, not only goodness, but hope and healing will pour out of what we give in these moments. Bless our gifts, we pray in the name of Jesus. 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

HYMN

"Here, I am Lord"

(See page 13)

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

"Londonderry Air"

Irish Melody

MINISTERS: Pat Rothenhofer and Sandi Pascone (Ushers), Barbara VanTassel (Refreshments)

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS presented to the Glory of God by Donna Scioli





ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 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 Chilli. 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

2. 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.

The sign in code for the meeting will be 897 8171 2968.

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.

January 3 - God

January 10 - The Messiah

January 17 - Holy Spirit

January 24 - Tree of Life

January 31 - Eternal Life

February 7 - Sacrifice and Atonement

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.

3. MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who chose tags from the Angel Tree and bought gifts. We wrapped and delivered everything right before Christmas. It was heartwarming to see the thoughtfulness with which everyone shopped for the two families. The Covenant congregation is very generous, and able to do great things for our neighbors.

4. 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.

5. GIVING ENVELOPES

All 2024 envelopes are available. They are organized by number and located in the narthex.

6. INITIAL OFFERING: As a congregation in the Presbyterian Church (USA), we support the administrative costs of the Presbytery for Southern Jersey, the Synod of the Northeast and the General Assembly. These costs are shared equitably through per capita apportionment as each congregation contributes money based on the number of active members. Please prayerfully consider using your special envelope marked Initial Offering to help Covenant meet its giving responsibility for our connectional church. For 2024 we are requesting a contribution of \$40.00 per member to meet the per capita costs of the presbytery, synod and general assembly. Thank you.

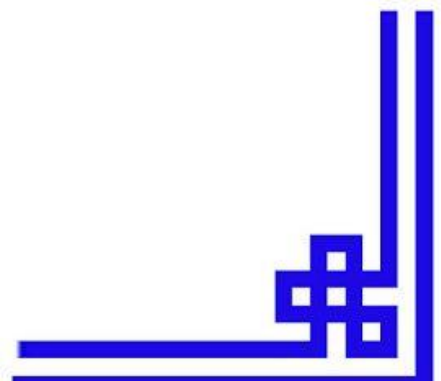
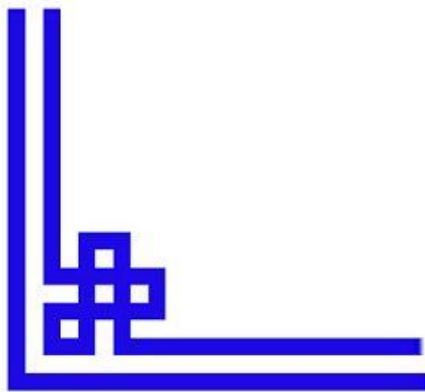
7. FLOWER CHART

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.

8. 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.

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

10. STEWARDSHIP: Total Income for Christmas Eve: Total Income: \$2856.00, Envelope Giving: \$2477. Deacons: \$106.00, Christmas: \$172.00. Total Income for 12/31: \$2135.18, Envelope Giving: \$720.00, Christmas: \$520.00.



PRAYER LIST

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

We also pray for those who are ill.



Please keep our Covenant friends and families in your prayers:

Treva - thankful and joyful prayers that she is now at home and recovering and gaining strength
Betty Graham - continued prayers for healing in her legs and return of feeling better
Julia Slater - excellent results from hip replacement and no more discomfort
Janette Hutchinson - healing in her leg
B. Ann and Dave DuBois - able to deal with various health issues
Terri and Ken Bell - comfort and rest for Terri and strength for Ken as he cares for her
Linda Ballenger - prayers for her cousin who was diagnosed with cancer
Nancy Perritt's neighbor in Delran - recovery from serious fire at the Kohn home
Karen Schwartz's neighbor's grandson, Colin - he is suffering from internal bleeding - prayers for correct diagnosis to treat him
Mary Lou's friend, Tom - healing from fall
Greg's grandmother, Rita - healing from fall
Carol's son, Bruce - he will have a procedure tomorrow to diagnose problem with his pancreas - prayers for good results and treatment

God of Our Life

686

1 God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, we trust in thee.
 2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us a - bide.
 3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un-known we fol-low thee.

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.
 Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land. Be thou our guide.
 When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone. Our ref-uge be.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
 With thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
 Be thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,

we own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
 and faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.
 our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

This text was created for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by its pastor. He wrote these words especially for this tune, originally composed for John Henry Newman's text "Lead, Kindly Light."

722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak in liv - ing
 2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wan - dering
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the pre - cious
 4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un - til my
 5 O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just as you

ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so
 and the wa - vering feet. O feed me, Lord, that
 truths which you im - part. And wing my words that
 ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and
 will, and when, and where un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gering ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - ya heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

Leader or All

G Am D G C G D

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain All

G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.