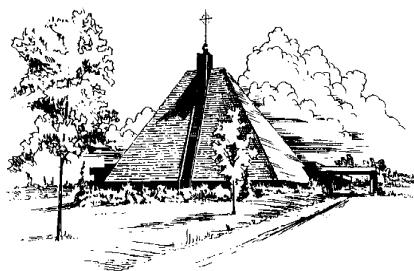


COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CINNAMINSON, NEW JERSEY



3rd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

10:00 AM

JANUARY 21, 2024

PRELUDE

"Isn't He"

arr. Hayes

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

Amanda Rosica

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

The Word of the Lord came,
hope for all people cradled in his arms.
the Word of the Lord comes,
calling us out of our comfort zones, to go where grace is needed most.
The Word of the Lord will come,
gathering all the outsiders and insiders into one community of the kingdom.
With prayer and praise, in scripture and in song, let us Worship the Living God!

HYMN

"How Firm a Foundation"

(See page 10)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Now is the appointed time. Pour out your hearts to God, bringing those harmful words you spoke, the chances to help you turned your backs on, and the foolish choices of your lives. Offer them to the One who longs to hear us, trusting that God will forgive us. Together, let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our comfortable lives convince us we do not need to follow Jesus, Steadfast God. Our work provides for our wants, so we have no need for your grace. Our friends are found through social media, so we do not need your community. Our fear of the beliefs and cultures of others makes us sure that we do not need to share your grace with them.

Forgive us for dragging our feet as Jesus' disciples, Compassionate God. May we get up from our comfort zones and step out in faith. May we go to all the uncomfortable places to bring hope. May we proclaim with our lips, but especially with our lives, that the kingdom of love is near, brought by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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:

Now, after we confess, we hear the good news proclaimed: God hears our words, God sees our changed hearts, God's steadfast love is poured out upon us!

**We will trust in God, in whom our salvation rests. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!
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

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 1:14-20

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."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, Lord Christ!

ANTHEM

"Down to the River"

arr. McDonald

PSALM 62:5-12

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion;

in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this:

that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.

For you repay to all according to their work.



JONAH 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Crazy Love"

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, You have Come to the Lakeshore"

(See page 11)

LITANY OF CALLING

God...you call us...and sometimes...we duck under the table... hoping you didn't notice us when you walked into the room. You call us...and sometimes...we grab a stapler and a stack of papers... trying to look too busy to be bothered at the moment.

You call us...and sometimes we just say, "No!" We know that we aren't expected to do everything... but we often forget that you call us to be our selves in the places where our very self is what is most needed.

So give us the grace to say "Yes" to your call... even now.

— written by Rev. Scott Cervas

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious God, because we are not strong enough to pray as we should, you provide Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit to intercede for us in power. In this confidence we ask you to accept our prayers. God of mercy,



hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the church.

Faithful God, you formed your church from the despised of the earth and showed them mercy, that they might proclaim your salvation to all. Strengthen those whom you choose today, that they may faithfully endure all trials by which you conform your church to the cross of Christ. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for creation.

Creator of all, you entrusted the earth to the human race, yet we disrupt its peace with violence and corrupt its purity with our greed. Prevent your people from ravaging creation, that coming generations may inherit lands brimming with life. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the world.

Sovereign God, you hold both the history of nations and the humble life of villages in your care. Preserve the people of every nation from tyrants, heal them of disease, and protect them in time of upheaval and disaster, that all may enter the kingdom that cannot be shaken. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for peace.

Judge of the nations, you created humanity for salvation, not destruction, and sent your Son to guide us into the way of peace. Enable people of every race and nation to accept each other as sisters and brothers, your children, on whom you lavish honor and favor. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who govern us.

God Most High, in Jesus of Nazareth you show us the authority that pleases you: for he rules not by power or might, but serves in obedience to your will. We pray for all in authority over us: for Joe our President, Cory and Robert our Senators, Andy our Congressman, Philip our Governor, our state legislature, and the justices of the Supreme Court. Deliver them from vain ambitions that they may govern in wisdom and justice. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for this community.

Merciful God, since Jesus longed to protect Jerusalem as a hen gathers her young under her wings, we ask you to guard and strengthen all who live and work here in Cinnaminson. Deliver your people from jealousy and contempt that they may show mercy to all their neighbors. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all families and those who live alone.

Holy God, from whom every family on earth takes its name: Strengthen parents to be responsible and loving that their children may know security and joy. Lead children to honor parents by compassion and forgiveness. May all people discover your parental care by the respect and love given them by others. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who suffer any sorrow or trial.



Compassionate God, your Son gives rest to those weary with heavy burdens. Heal the sick in body, mind, and spirit. Lift up the depressed. Befriend those who grieve. Comfort the anxious. Stand with all victims of abuse and other crime. Awaken those who damage themselves and others through the use of any drug. Fill all people with your Holy Spirit that they may bear each other's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

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

Eternal God, your love is stronger than death, and your passion more fierce than the grave. We rejoice in the lives of those whom you have drawn into your eternal embrace. Keep us in joyful communion with them until we join the saints of every people and nation, gathered before your throne in ceaseless praise.

God of glory, you see how all creation groans in labor as it awaits redemption. As we work for and await your new creation, we trust that you will answer our prayers with grace, and fulfill your promise that all things work together for good for those who love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

"Hymn of Promise"

John Carter

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings"

#809

OFFERTORY PRAYER

May these gifts we offer show we recognize your claim upon us, Holy God. Use them so your grace, your love, and your hope may be shared with everyone who needs them. 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

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

(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: Joy Connolly and Sandi Pascone (Ushers), Linda Ballenger (Refreshments), Christy Jeffries (Flower Delivery)

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS presented to the Glory of God by David Landgraf in loving memory of his late wife, Linda Shipman Landgraf.

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 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

2. BIBLE STUDY WITH BOB!

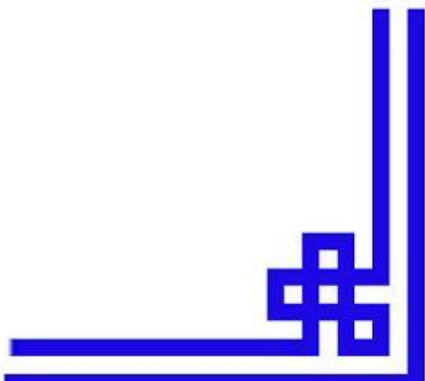
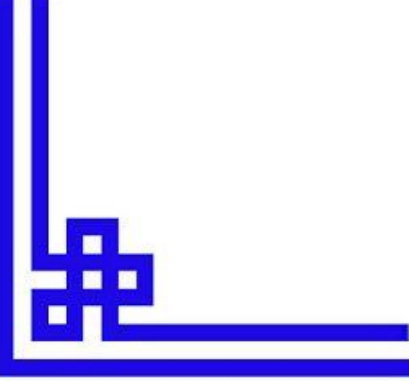
To get the new year started, Pastor Bob invites you to join an online Bible Study to be presented over **Zoom on Wednesdays at 7pm.** Sign in from home! Dress however you like!

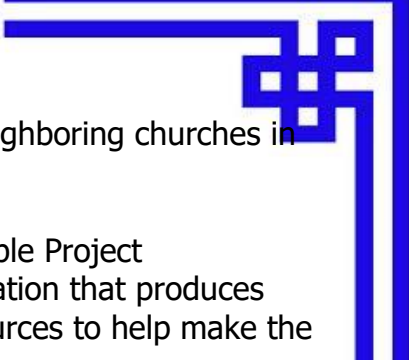

The Zoom app is available on computer, phones and iPads and can easily downloaded from the App Store (Apple) or the Google Play App.

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. 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.

4. GIVING ENVELOPES

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

5. 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.

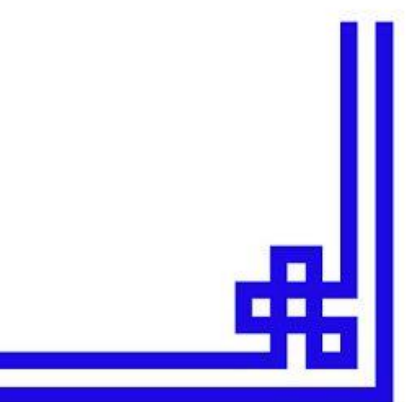
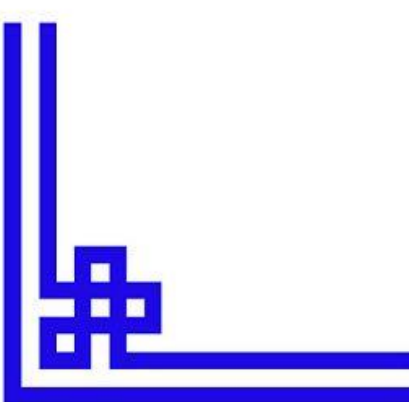
6. FLOWER CHART

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.

7. 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.

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

9. STEWARDSHIP: Total Income for 1/7: \$3081.82, Envelope Giving: \$1635.00, Deacons Fund: \$180.00, Capital Improvements Fund: \$25.00. Total Income for 1/14: \$2590.00, Envelope Giving: \$1855.00, Deacons: \$50.00, Capital Improvements Fund: \$10.00.



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.



Thank you, prayers, for Pastor Bob's leadership and thoughtful sermon. Scott Scioli led the service with scripture reading and announcements. Thank you! Grateful and thankful prayers to Dave May, organist, for filling in for Greg and to Greg's parents, Ann Marie and Anthony, for assembling and printing the Sunday bulletin for worship. Appreciation to Barbara Van Tassel for serving refreshments.

Treva - thankful that she will be finished shortly with daily shots at the doctor's office and can receive good oral medicine at home while her health continues to improve

Julia Slater - good healing and strength in her knee as she recovers from replacement

Betty Graham - continued healing in her legs and getting her strength back

Laura Brenner - recovering from stomach virus to feel better

Janette Hutchinson - prayers for healing in her leg and knee

Kelly Higgs - prayers for her dad, Bud Damon, as he deals with serious health issues and diabetes

B. Ann and Dave DuBois - both dealing with health issues and able to keep strong

Linda Ballenger - prayers for her cousin as she receives treatment for cancer

Karen Schwartz's neighbor's grandson, Colin - suffering from internal bleeding - prayers that he will be accurately diagnosed

Mary Lou's friend, Tom - recovering from fall

Greg's grandmother, Rita - healing from fall

Bruce - thankful for procedure last week to determine problem with pancreas and help for painful back - and his family that they will secure a permanent residence shortly

463

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis-mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

721 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

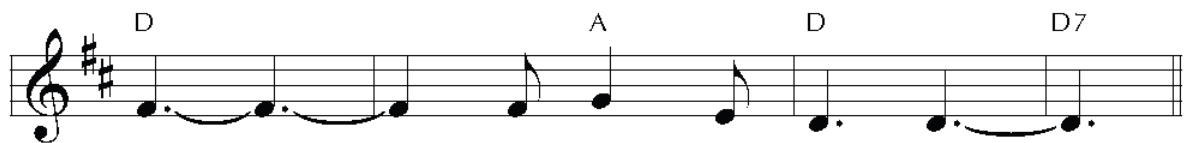
Tú has venido a la orilla



1 Lord, you have come to the lake - shore look - ing
 2 You know so well my pos - ses - sions; my boat
 3 You need my hands, full of car - ing, through my
 4 You, who have fished oth - er o - ceans, ev - er



nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones; you on - ly
 car - ries no gold and no weap - ons; you will
 la - bors to give oth - ers rest and con - stant
 longed for by souls who are wait - ing, my lov - ing



asked me to fol - low hum - bly.
 find there my nets and la - bor.
 love that keeps on lov - ing.
 friend, as thus you call me:

Refrain / Estribillo



O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while
 Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos, son - ri -



smil - ing have spo - ken my name; now my
 en - do has di - cho mi nom - bre, en la g -

This is one of the most popular songs to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious song in Spain. It asks singers to become like the fishermen who left boats and nets to follow Jesus, first as disciples learning his way of love, then as apostles carrying that love to others.

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

boat's left on the shore-line behind me. By your
 re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca, jun - to a

side I will seek other seas.
 ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.

SPANISH

- 1 Tú has venido a la orilla,
 no has buscado ni a sabios, ni a ricos,
 tan sólo quieres que yo te siga. Estribillo
- 2 Tú sabes bien lo que tengo:
 en mi barca no hay oro ni espadas,
 tan solo redes y mi trabajo. Estribillo
- 3 Tú necesitas mis manos,
 mi cansancio que a otros descanse,
 amor que quiera seguir amando. Estribillo
- 4 Tú, pescador de otros lagos,
 ansia eterna de almas que esperan,
 amigo bueno, que así me llamas. Estribillo

438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands.
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side which flowed
Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



Though scholars discredit the story that this hymn was written when the author found shelter under a large rock during a thunderstorm, the popular appeal of that conjecture perhaps lies in the energy of this plea and the vividness of its imagery drawn from many biblical sources.

TEXT: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776, alt.
MUSIC: Thomas Hastings, 1830, alt.

TOPLADY
7.7.7.7.7.7

FORGIVENESS



be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.
all for sin could not a - tone. Thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

