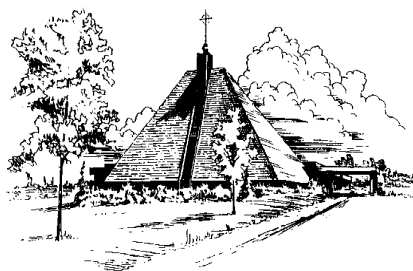


COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CINNAMINSON, NEW JERSEY



4th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

10:00 AM

JANUARY 28, 2024

PRELUDE

"Chanson de Matin"
Ruth Kiang-Violin

Edward Elgar

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

Mary Lou Newborg

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 in this sacred space,
to offer our thanks to God with all our hearts.

We gather with this community of faith,
to follow Jesus, who longs to lead us into life.

We gather in these moments,
to learn all we can of grace from the Holy Spirit.

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

HYMN

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

(See page 8)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come on this holy day, God our God, to speak of how we live. Politicians, celebrities, talk show folks have become our so-called gods. Our choices often cause those around us to trip over our anger and slip on our pride. The words we speak to others show how we really want nothing to do with you.

Forgive us, Holy God, and have mercy on us. May we silence our fears, so words of hope may be spoken. May we give thanks not only with our hearts but with the grace we can share with others. May justice and peace be the tools we use as we serve beside 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

We know who God is – the One who comes to love us, to forgive us, and to save us.

Thanks be to God. We will spread this good news, and share this grace and hope, with everyone we meet. 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.

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die. 'Then the Lord replied to me, 'They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

"Shepherd Me O God"
Ruth Kiang - Violin

arr. Mark Hayes

PSALM 111

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.

MARK 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Glory to You, Lord Christ

SERMON

"Teaching With Authority"

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

"Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

(See page 11)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

— United Church of Canada

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the church.

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for creation.

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the world.

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for peace.

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who govern us.

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for this community.

Hear our prayer.

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

Hear our prayer.

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

Hear our prayer.

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

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY

“Change My Heart Oh God”

Espinosa

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

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

(See page 12)

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

"Serenade"
Ruth Kiang - Violin

Toselli

MINISTERS: Joan Samph and Betty Herskovitz (Ushers), Linda Ballenger (Refreshments), Joan Samph (Flower Delivery)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 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

2. PHOTO ALBUM

One of our members, Grace Hafner, has compiled a beautiful photo album of many wonderful memories over the years at Covenant. Take some 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.

3. 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



4. 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.

January 31 – Tree of Life
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.

5. 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.

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.

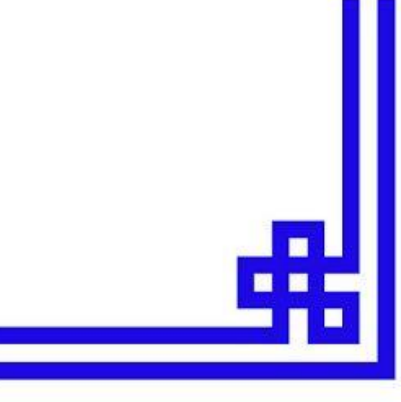
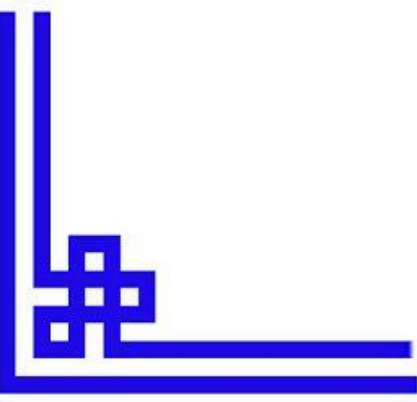
7. FLOWER CHART

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 1/21: \$6057.00, Envelope Giving: \$1837.00, Deacons Fund: \$300.00, Capital Improvements Fund: \$25.00.



PRAYER LIST



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

Please pray for our Covenant friends and families this week:

Treva - continued strength and feeling very well

Betty Graham - healing in her legs and return to good health

Julia Slater - recovering very well and able to take walks without pain

B. Ann and Dave DuBois - dealing with health concerns

Terri and Ken Bell - comfort for Terri and receiving strength from Ken who cares for her

Linda Ballenger - good treatment and success for her cousin as she deals with cancer

Karen Schwartz's neighbor's grandson, Colin - able to diagnose his condition and receive good treatment

Laura Brenner - recovery from stomach ailment and receiving good care

Kelly Higgs - prayers for her dad, Bud Damon, dealing with health issues and diabetes

Mary Lou's friend, Tom - healing from fall

Greg's grandmother, Rita - healing from fall

Carol's son, Bruce - he has been diagnosed with cancer - prayers that he will receive very good care and treatment

15 All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
 2 O broth-er wind with clouds and rain, you nur-ture gifts
 3 O broth-er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad-
 4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain

Harmony

and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 of fruit and grain. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 ews of the night. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 or sor-row grieve, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Unison

O broth-er sun with gold-en beam, O sis-ter moon
 O sis-ter wa-ter, flow-ing clear, make mu-sic for
 Dear moth-er earth, who day by day un-folds such bless-
 Christ bears your bur-dens and your fears; so, e-ven in

Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

Harmony

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

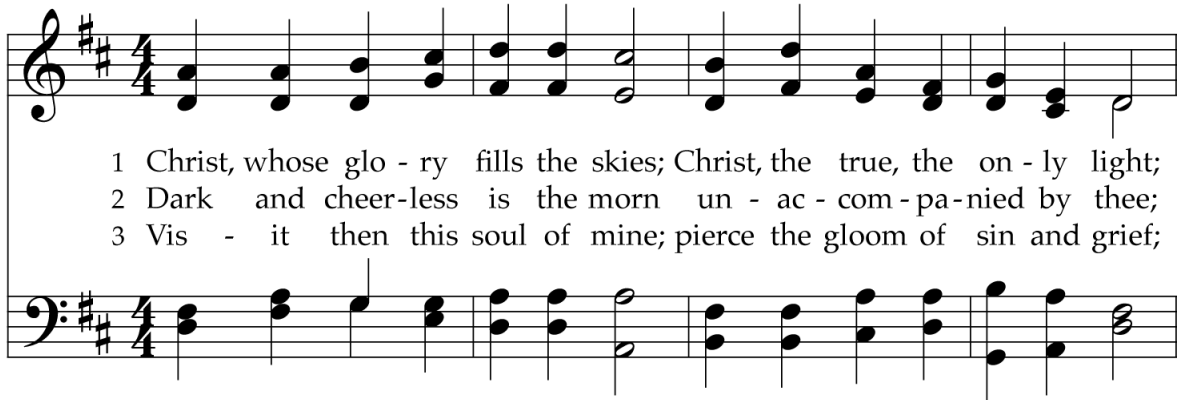
Unison

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

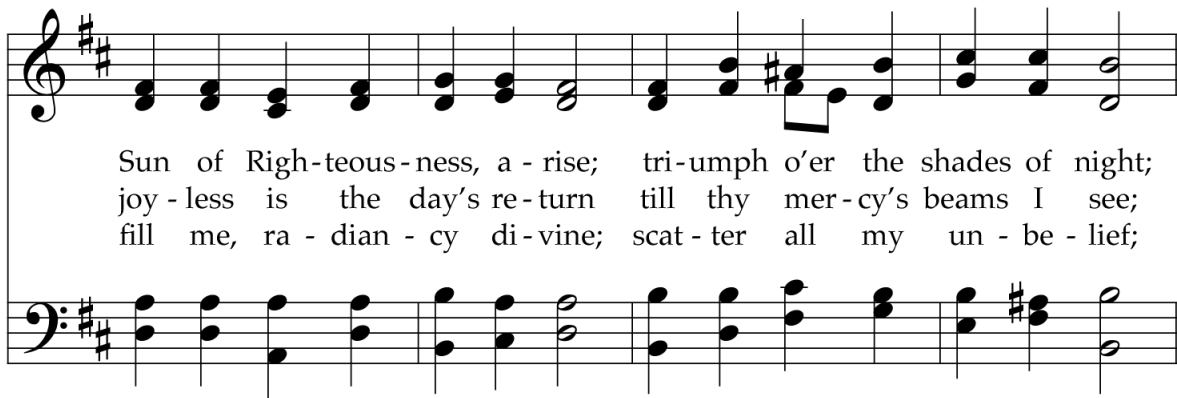
5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 662



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
joy - less is the day's re - turn till thy mer - cy's beams I see;
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

This well-crafted morning hymn opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1740

MUSIC: German folk melody; adapt. Johann Werner, 1815; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847

RATISBON

7.7.7.7.7.7

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.