

# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CINNAMINSON, NEW JERSEY



24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM

November 12, 2023

*(WORSHIP IS AT THE VERY heart of the church's life. All that the church is and does is rooted in its worship. The community of faith, gathered in response to God's call, is formed in its worship. Worship is the principal influence that shapes our faith, and is the most visible way we express the faith.)*

## The Gathering of God's People

*(Worship begins with God. God takes the initiative and calls us into being. In the name of Christ, we answer God's call and assemble as the community of faith.)*

*As the people gather, they may informally greet one another as members of the household of faith. They may pray silently or engage in quiet meditation, or music may be offered appropriate to the season or to the scripture readings of the day. The music should help people focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.)*

### PRELUDE

"In the Garden"

arr. Mier

### GREETING AND PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**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

"O God, We Do Exalt Your Name"

L. Larson

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Lou Newborg

*(The people are called to worship God.)*

Leader: If we will but listen,

**People: God will speak to us in parables, God will tell us stories lived out by our grandparents.**

Leader: If we will but remember,

**People: We will discover all we have heard and known, all the wonders God has in store for us.**

Leader: If we will but share,

**Leader: We can tell our children and grandchildren - even those not yet born - the glorious stories of our God**

Leader: With prayer and praise, in scripture and in song, let us worship the Living God!

**HYMN**

**“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”**

**#3**

\*If you are able, please stand

*(In words of scripture the people are called to confess the reality of sin in personal and common life. Claiming the promises of God sealed in our baptism, we humbly confess our sin. Confession is made by using a prayer, a penitential psalm, or appropriate music. Whatever the form, it will engage us in acknowledging our sinfulness and in confessing our sin to God. A period of silence may be observed before, within, or following the confession of sin. Music of a penitential character may follow the prayer.)*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**It is never easy to admit how foolish we are, Approaching God. You have chosen us for yourself, and we continue to shelter false gods in our hearts. You promise to be with us in every moment, but we can find little time for you. You send your Word to us, but we are too busy listening to the noise of our culture to pay attention.**

**Have mercy, Eternal One, and forgive us. Speak to us, so we might listen, and in hearing be transformed into your people. Fill us with holiness, so we might give ourselves wholly to others. Enable us to serve you faithfully and completely, even as did our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SILENT MEDITATION**

**LORD HAVE MERCY (3X)**

Two staves of musical notation in 3/2 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Lord, have mer - cy." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us." The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes with stems.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*(Having confessed our sin, we remember the promises of God’s redemption, and the claims God has on all human life. The assurance of God’s forgiving grace is declared in the name of Jesus Christ. We accept God’s forgiveness, confident that in dying to sin, God raises us to new life)*

Hear the good news and be a peace with yourself:

**This is our assurance: God forgives us. This is our hope: God's love is everlasting. This is our truth: God is with us always.**

We will speak the truth; we will live the hope; we will share God's mercy. Thanks be to God. Amen.

### WE ARE FORGIVEN (1X)

\*If you are able, please stand

Musical score for the hymn "We are forgiven". The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "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." The chords are: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

### SHARING THE PEACE

\*If you are able, please stand

*(Having been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, the people are invited to share signs of reconciliation and the peace of Christ. In sharing the peace, we express the reconciliation, unity, and love that come only from God, and we open ourselves to the power of God's love to heal our brokenness and make us agents of that love in the world.)*

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

Mary Lou Newborg

### The Proclamation of God's Word

*(Scriptures are read and their message is proclaimed. Psalms, hymns, spirituals, or anthems may be sung between the readings.)*

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*(A prayer for illumination may be offered before the reading and proclaiming of the scripture. This prayer seeks the illumination of the Holy Spirit and calls upon God to make us receptive to the life-giving Word, which comes to us through the scripture.)*

**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.**

*(The PCUSA joins with many denominations, including the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran, and others in following what is called the Revised Common Lectionary. It consists of 4 readings each week: an Old Testament, Psalm, Gospel, and Epistle which repeats every three years. The idea of the Lectionary is to expose worshippers to the entirety of scripture so people will hear the whole Bible.)*



## EPISTLE

### Amos 5:18-24

Leader: Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord?

**People: It is darkness, not light, as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear**

Leader: Or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake.

**People: Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?**

Leader: I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

**People: Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them,**

Leader: and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.

**People: Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.**

Leader: But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## ANTHEM

“A Childlike Faith”

Callaway

## PSALM

### Psalm 70

Leader: Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me!

**People: Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life.**

Leader: Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.

**People: Let those who say, “Aha, Aha!” turn back because of their shame.**

Leader: Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you.

**People: Let those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”**

Leader: But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!

**People: You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.**

Leader: May God bless this, the reading and hearing of God’s Holy Word.

## GOSPEL

### Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus said, “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*(This scripture is the main focus of the sermon and immediately precedes it.)*

## SERMON

“Rediscovering Ourselves — 2. Being Prepared” Rev. Dr. Robert Higgs

## PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*(Following the sermon, people are invited to reflect on the message and contemplate what God is saying to them.)*

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”

## The Response of God’s People

*(Responses to the proclamation of God’s Word include expressions of faith and commitment, and the offering of prayers for worldwide and local needs. As hearing becomes doing, the tithes and offerings of the people are gathered.)*

## HYMN

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

#78

\*If you are able, please stand

*(A hymn or other song is sung. It may be related to the scripture readings of the day, or it may lead to the prayers of the people or to Baptism or a pastoral rite that might follow.)*

## BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH - PCUSA

*(The people respond to the proclamation of the Word by affirming the faith.*

*The faith of the church both shapes our lives and expresses the hope and expectancy that are a part of the Christian life. From early in the church’s life, an affirmation of faith has been central in corporate worship. The Nicene Creed, the most historic creed of the Church is traditionally said whenever the Lord’s Supper is celebrated.)*

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(In response to the Word, prayers are offered. In these prayers, we acknowledge God's presence in the world and in daily life. Across the ages the church in its worship has prayed for the church universal, the world, all in authority, and those in distress or need. At no other time in its worship is the community of faith more conscious of the needs of the life of the world. We pray for the world because God loves it. God created the world and cares for it. God sent Jesus, who died for it. God is working to lead the world toward the future God has for it. To abide in God's love is to share God's concern for the world. Our prayers should therefore be as wide as God's love and as specific as God's tender com- passion for the least ones among us.)*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord saying "Lord, have mercy."

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, Donald 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.

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

### CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

### OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

“God Is Love”

J. Stainer

### DOXOLOGY

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

#809

\*If you are able, please stand

### LORD’S PRAYER

And now as children of God, let us be bold to say:

**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.**

### The Sending of God’s People

*(The people are sent forth with God’s blessing to serve. A formal dismissal concludes the service. A charge to the people to go into the world in the name of Christ may be included. The charge renews God’s call to us to engage in obedient and grateful ministry as God’s agents to heal life’s brokenness. By the power of the Spirit, we are to be in life and ministry what Christ has redeemed us to be.)*

*God calls the church to join the mission of Christ in service to the world. As the church engages in that mission, it bears witness to God’s reign over all of life. God sends the church in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel, to engage in works of compassion and reconciliation, to strive for peace and justice in its own life and in the world, to be stewards of creation and of life, caring for creation until the day when God will make all things new. The church in both its worship and its ministry is a sign of the reign of God. God’s reign is both a present reality and a promise of the future. In an age hostile to the reign of God, the church worships and serves, confident that God’s rule has been established, and with hope firmly rooted in the ultimate triumph of God.*

*The dismissal shall include words of blessing, using a trinitarian benediction such as the apostolic benediction in 2 Cor. 13:14, or other words from scripture. Assured of God’s peace and blessing, we are confident that God goes with us to our tasks. Signs of reconciliation and peace may be exchanged as the people depart.)*

### CLOSING HYMN

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

#62

\*If you are able, please stand

### PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

My friends, go out into the world in peace ... Now together, may we all say:

Lord, may You this week open up doors for us to share your Word.

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

“Now May the God of Peace”

L. Larson

**POSTLUDE**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

arr. Austin

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** presented to the Glory of God by Betty Herskovitz in honor of her grandchildren Dana, Austin, and Erin Scioli, Amanda and Mikey Ramos.

**MINISTERS:** Carol Ortlip and Nancy Perritt (Ushers), Carol Ortlip (Refreshments), Janette Hutchinson (Flower Delivery)

**MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SCHEDULES**

**Women’s Bible Study** – Mondays 11:00 AM

**Choir Rehearsal** – Sundays 11:00 AM

**Bell Rehearsal** – Mondays 7:00 PM

**Christian Education (Bonnie Cain and Amanda Rosica)** – as needed

**Deacons** – 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM

**Fellowship (Amanda Rosica)** – 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 PM

**Finance and Stewardship (Mike Martin)** – 2nd Monday, 7:00 PM

**Men’s Breakfast** -Tuesdays, 7:00 AM

**Membership (Nancy Perritt)** – as needed

**Mission (Mary Lou Newborg)** – as needed

**Music and Worship (Leslie Todd)** – November 19, after worship, lounge

**Property Care (Chuck Rosica and Bob Jeffries)** – determined by chairperson

**Session** – 4th Thursday, 7:30 PM





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **1. POINSETTIA FORM**

If you are interested in dedicating a poinsettia to a loved one, please fill out the form and return it to the church office no later than December 10. Forms will be available in the Narthex by next week.

### **2. THANKSGIVING COLLECTION**

Covenant's Deacons will be collecting frozen turkeys again this year for Epworth Methodist's Bread of Life Food Pantry in Palmyra. You can bring frozen turkeys or turkey breasts from Sunday, October 29 till Thursday, November 16. As our church freezer can only hold 3 or 4 turkeys, we will be making frequent drop offs as they come in. In addition, the Deacons will purchase and deliver Thanksgiving side dishes for donation to the Pantry. Your contributions to the Deacons' Fund with the pink envelopes make this possible. Thank you very much for your continued generosity.

### **3. BRUNCH**

Join us for soups, breads, and other goodies after worship on November 12th in Fellowship Hall. Please use the signup sheet in the narthex. Fellowship would like to have a headcount.

### **4. LADIES TEA**

Ladies Christmas Tea is December 2nd at 12:30PM (Tea at 1PM) - an elegant afternoon with full tea service, Christmas decor, and fellowship. Ages 5 and up welcome. Tickets on sale Nov. 5th.

### **5. SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Attention all children starting at age 4. Covenant will be hosting Sunday School during the 10am Church Service on the following dates: November 19th, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **6. 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.

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

**8. STEWARDSHIP:** Total Income for 11/5: Total Income: \$2445.00, Envelope Giving: \$2175.00, Deacons:\$215.00, Capital Improvements Fund: \$25.00

# Prayer List

A warm welcome to Rev. Bob Higgs and his wife, Kelly, and thankful prayers for his strong sermon and friendly first day. Thank you to Scott for leading the service and for reading Scripture and delivering important announcements. Thanks to Joan Samph for serving refreshments and for Betty for serving coffee.

Please continue to pray for peace in our countries, communities and world.

## *Our prayers for Covenant friends and families:*

Betty Graham - continued healing and gaining strength and feeling better  
B. Ann and Dave DuBois - continued concern at they both deal with health issues  
Kathy Hood - continued very good care and peace of mind  
Bobbie Bechtel - continued healing of her ribs  
Terri Bell - able to rest in comfort and receive strength from the good care of her husband, Ken  
Etna Keller - good care at memory facility  
Emily Busby - good care at nursing facility  
Mary Lou's friend - Logan - now 2 and a cancer patient hopefully receiving good results from treatment  
Karen Schwartz's grandson, Lucas - good recovery following successful surgery on his injured leg  
Betty's friend, Bill - feeling better following intense cancer treatment  
Denise - feeling uplifted through her Bible study and good friends  
Bruce and his family - finding an apartment very soon and good care for Bruce as he deals with health concerns

# 809 Praise God from Whom All Blessings

The musical score is written for two voices, Treble and Bass, in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and homophonic, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a final chord.

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;  
praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

WORDS: *Doxology*, Thomas Ken, 1709  
MUSIC: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551, alt.

OLD HUNDREDTH  
L.M.



# 3 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." Is. 6:3

Descant

4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it, Three we name you;

1. Ho - ly God, we praise your name, Lord of all, we bow be - fore you;  
 2. Hark! the loud ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing;  
 3. Lo! the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred Name to hal - low;  
 4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it, Three we name you;

while in es - sence on - ly one, un - di - vid - ed God we claim you,

all on earth your scep - ter claim, all in heaven a - bove a - dore you;  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing,  
 proph - ets swell the glad re - frain, and the white - robed mar - tyr's fol - low;  
 while in es - sence on - ly one, un - di - vid - ed God we claim you,

then, a - dor - ing, bend the knee, and con - fess the mys - ter - y.

in - fi - nite your vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
 fill the heavens with sweet ac - cord: ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.  
 and from morn to set of sun, through the Church the song goes on.  
 then, a - dor - ing, bend the knee, and con - fess the mys - ter - y.

WORDS: Attr. Ignaz Franz, c. 1774;  
 tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1853, alt.; based on *Te Deum*, c. 4th C.  
 MUSIC: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774; desc. Donald P. Hustad, 1989

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH  
 7.8.7.8.7.7.



# O God, Our Help in Ages Past 78

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Ps. 90:1

Descant

6. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;

be thou our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!  
 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
 short as the watch that ends the night, be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
 bears all its years away,  
 they fly, forgotten, as a dream  
 dies at the opening day.

6. O God, our help in ages past,  
 our hope for years to come,  
 be thou our guide while life shall last,  
 and our eternal home!



# 62 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory . . ." 1 Tim. 1:17

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. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of 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 as 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.  
 and with - er and per - ish - but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867  
 MUSIC: Traditional Welsh melody; harm. John Roberts, 1839

ST. DENIO  
 11.11.11.