

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CINNAMINSON, NEW JERSEY



REIGN OF CHRIST

10:00 AM

November 26, 2023

Covenant's Mission Statement

"To share God's love with all people, to nurture each other, to serve those in need, and to invite everyone into fellowship and worship as we strive to follow the example of Jesus Christ."

PRELUDE

"Reflections on Thankfulness"

arr. Sandra Eithun

"Canon"

arr. Hal Hopson

"Come As You Are"

arr. Bill Ingram

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

Chuck Rosica

Leader: Our lives scattered on the floor of the world, our limits pushed by stress and its best friend, impatience, we come:

People: For here, God would gather us, bringing us to the realm of peace.

Leader: Wondering if truth is fake or worth pursuing, questioning whether anyone is worth following or believing, we come:

People: For here, God would feed us with wisdom, sending the One who would lead us to the realm of hope.

Leader: Questioning the motives of everyone in power, doubting that justice can be found anywhere, we come:

People: For here, God brings us to worship with our siblings, scooping us up from every place we have strayed.

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

HYMN

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name!”

(See page 13)

*If you are able, please stand

CALL TO CONFESSION

So accustomed to the world's shadows, we do not think of ourselves as being lost. We are so confident of where we are going, we never ask for directions. But as we confess the lives we truly lead, we discover how scattered we are. So, let us pray together, as we discover the One who has been searching for us. Together, we say:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gathering God, this week, we threw an extra can of (on sale) veggies in our overflowing grocery carts; we donated that old coat we haven't worn in a couple of years to the thrift store; we re-gifted a bouquet to a neighbor in the hospital. Did you notice? Or were you too busy cleaning the guest room for the immigrant couple; buying hats and gloves for all the kids in the school near your home; sitting by the bed of a hospice patient after the family left for the night.

We spend so much time patting ourselves on the back, that we do not notice how you are constantly searching the ends of the earth for all your children, Merciful God, even going into the very grip of death to bring us all new life. Give us the faith to live as your people, and the wisdom to let go of all that you have poured into our lives, even as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION

LORD HAVE MERCY (3X)

Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/2 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the prayer, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news and be a peace with yourself:

God feeds the hungry and gives hope to the parched.

That's us.

God brings healing to the sick and visits those imprisoned.

That's us.

God wraps warmth around the shivering, and knits a sweater for the naked.

That's us.

God loves every person, forgives every person, cares for every person.

That's us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

WE ARE FORGIVEN (1X)

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, and guitar chords are indicated above the staff. 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. 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.

*If you are able, please stand

SHARING THE PEACE

*If you are able, please stand

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

Chuck Rosica

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.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and

his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. 'Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you? 'Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. 'And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to You, Lord Christ!

"I Will Give Joyful Thanks"

Nolan

ANTHEM

PSALM

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rediscovering Ourselves — 4. Putting Jesus First "Rev. Dr. Robert Higg

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 ...

Page 4 of 15

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

HYMN

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

(See page 14)

*If you are able, please stand

BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH - PCUSA

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 God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“He Keeps Me Singing”

Glenda Austin

DOXOLOGY

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

#809

*If you are able, please stand

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We may not be hungry, but there are those who are. We may not be parched from thirst, but there are those who do. We may not worry about health care, or have someone in prison, or have to wear clothes tossed aside by others, but many of our siblings find themselves in such lives. But we have been blessed by you. So may these gifts we offer be used to everyone might know that your community of compassion, of hope, of grace, of life is for everyone. This we ask in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

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.

CLOSING HYMN

"Now Thank We All Our God"

(See page 15)

*If you are able, please stand

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 BENEDICTION

"Now May the God of Peace"

L. Larson

POSTLUDE

"Down to the River to Pray"

Mark Hayes

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS presented to the Glory of God by Carol Ortlip in memory of her husband, Bill, for their wedding anniversary on November 28th.

MINISTERS: Barbara Seither and Bonnie Cain (Ushers), Sandi Pascone (Refreshments), Ann Rosica (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) – determined by chairperson

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

Session – 4th Thursday, 7:30 PM



Christmas Eve Service

December 24th, 2023

4:00 PM



Covenant Presbyterian Church



2618 New Albany Road

Cinnaminson, NJ 08077



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. 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.

3. SUNDAY SCHOOL

Attention all children starting at age 4. Covenant will be hosting Sunday School during the 10am Church Service on the following dates: December 17th.

4. 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.

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

6. STEWARDSHIP: Total Income for 11/19: Total Income: \$1587.00, Envelope Giving: \$1242.00, Deacons:\$135.00.



POINSETTIA FORM

I wish to purchase _____ POINSETTIA PLANT (s) at \$11.00 each.

The Christmas Eve Bulletin will include a listing of names of donors (if desired) and mention the names of those in whose memory or in whose behalf the poinsettia plants are presented.

Mr./Mrs./Family

In memory/gratitude

Enclosed please find my check for the sum of \$ _____

Signed

----- Phone -----

Please return form to the church office no later than Sunday, December 10, 2023.

POINSETTIAS MAY BE PICKED UP AFTER THE DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

PLEASE CHECK ONE!

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia

_____ I would like the Deacons to deliver my poinsettia to someone special

Prayer List

Thank you to Pastor Bob for conducting worship and for his thoughtful sermon. Thank you to Betty Herskovitz for her participation in the service and for announcements. Thank you to Nancy Perritt for tasty refreshments. We appreciate Dave May filling in for Greg and for the fine anthem by our choir.

We continue to pray for peace in our communities, country and world.

Please keep our Covenant families and friends in your prayers:

Treva Grunigen – healing for her injured hand

Betty Graham – feeling better and socializing

B. Ann and Dave DuBois – continued care and rest as they both deal with health and concerns

Kathy Hood – good care and peace of mind

Bobbie Bechtel – continued healing of her ribs

Terri Bell – very good care by her husband, Ken and able to rest comfortably

Barbara VanTassel's friend Betty McCord, receiving good care

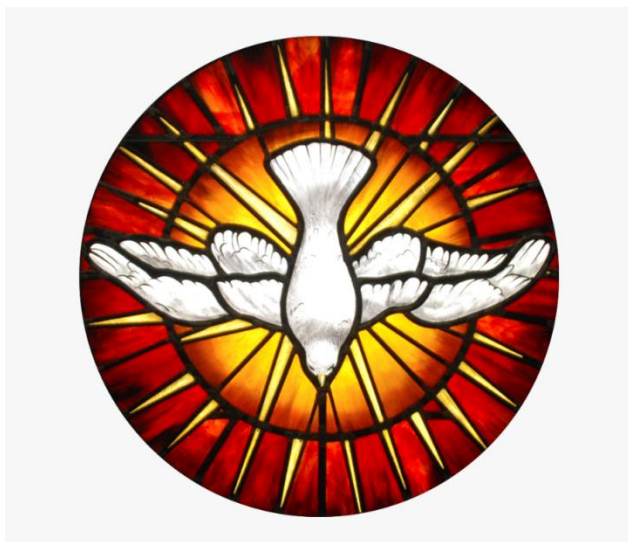
Mary Lou's friend, 2-year-old Logan – receiving radiation for cancer and praying for leg good results

Karen Schwartz's grandson, Lucas – joyful prayers that he is back to school as his leg heals.

Bruce, Dawn and Erin – good care for Bruce as he deals with health concerns and able to find an apartment for his family soon

Rita DiBona – healing for Greg's grandmother following a fall.

Betty's friend, Bill - good results and feeling better following intense treatment.



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 primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. 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.

4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:

bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
 bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;

all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Based on an 18th-century German metrical version of a celebrated 5th-century Latin hymn, *Te Deum laudamus*, this abbreviated 19th-century English paraphrase is sung by both Protestants and Roman Catholics. It is set here to the tune composed and named for the German version.

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

643 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in high - est heav - en,

who won-drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 to Fa - ther and to Son and Spir - it now be giv - en:

who, from our moth-ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when per-plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom heaven and earth a - dore,

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be ev - er - more.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.