

The CHURCH of the COVENANT

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018, 10:00 AM

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

**All who are able are invited to stand.*



THE MCGAFFIN CARILLON

GEORGE LEGGIERO, Carillonneur

PRELUDE

Trio super "Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr," BWV 662
(Glory to God in the Highest)

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
JONATHAN MOYER, Organist

WELCOME

KEVIN LOWRY, Campus Chaplain

* CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY

INTROIT

In the Darkness of the Morning

LATVIAN MELODY
The Covenant Choir

In the darkness of the morning, just before the hint of dawn, Mary Magdalene discovered Jesus Christ, her friend, was gone. Days before, she faced his suffering; she stayed with him as he died. Seeing now his tomb was empty, she remained outside and cried. As she wept, the warmth of sunrise filled the waiting world with light. Then she turned and saw a stranger, though her tears obscured her sight. Asked the man, "Why are you weeping?" in a voice she vaguely knew. "He is gone, and I must find him" she replied as morning grew. "Mary" said the smiling stranger as her vision was restored. She cried "Teacher!" and she touched him: Jesus Christ, her risen Lord.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in the name of the risen Lord.

All: **Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

We read in Acts that the first believers were of one heart and soul.

One heart. One soul.

They shared everything – everything they owned, everything they had.

God's grace was at work within them all.

There was not a needy person among them.

May it be so for us as well.

* HYMN 106

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

ALLELUIA No. 1

* CALL TO CONFESSION

SAM SENYO, Lay Worship Leader

* CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that we close the doors of our minds, shutting out your truth. We lock the gates of our hearts, pretending to be self-sufficient. Help us to sense your presence and to taste your grace, that we may fling wide the portals of our hearts, making them temples set apart from selfish use for your service.

* PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins, for with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with God is plenteous redemption. If we confess our sin, God is faithful and just, forgiving and transforming our lives. Friends, believe the good news:

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

* GLORIA PATRI

HYMN 579

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

****or Maker**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

PSALM 133

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

MINDY STEWART, Director of Family Ministries

While all children are more than welcome to remain in the service, we have a nursery for infants through pre-kindergarten children. Ask an usher for directions.

PARTING RESPONSE

HYMN 535 ~ TALLIS' CANON

All are invited to sing as the children kindergarten through 7th grade depart for Sunday School. Families may pick up their children at 11:45 am in the education wing.

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

SECOND LESSON

ACTS 4:32-5:11

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

More...or Less

REV. AMY STARR REDWINE, Pastor

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events around us. I refuse to believe we are bound by racism, war, and injustice. I believe those around me are my brother and my sister. I believe in dignity every day and that our brokenness can be healed. I believe we can overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to it. This means I seek to reject revenge and retaliation. I believe that "Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can."

~ adapted from the writings of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Abigail Reichard

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

HAROLD FRIEDEL
The Covenant Choir

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in thy name, two or three are met together thou are in the midst of them; Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem. As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up. All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee, that by caring, helping, giving we may true disciples be. Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), we observe open communion. Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper by intinction. Ushers will release pews from back to front. All who are able are welcome to come forward to receive communion. Servers will bring the elements to those who are unable to come forward. The communion wine is unfermented grape juice. Gluten-free bread is in the paper cup.

INVITATION

KEVIN LOWRY, CAMPUS CHAPLAIN

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts,

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give both thanks and praise....

SANCTUS

All are invited to sing

MERBECKE

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of hosts, Heav'n and earth are
full of Thy glo - ry: Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord Most High. A - men

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

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

* HYMN 443

O Christ, the Great Foundation

AURELIA

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sonata No. 2, Op. 65, II. Allegro maestoso

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

CARILLON POSTLUDE

TODAY AT COVENANT

MUSIC REHEARSAL, Sanctuary, 8:00

CRÈCHE NURSERY, Education Wing, 9:30

WORSHIP, Sanctuary, 10:00

YOUTH CHOIR/SUNDAY SCHOOL, Ed Wing, 10:15

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, Sanctuary, 11:00

STUDENT GATHERING, Narthex; 11:00

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP, Reception Room; 11:00

DWELLERS, Living Room, 12:00

HEALING CIRCLE, Sonia Golden Room, 12:30

SCIENCE OF SPIRITUALITY, Sonia Golden Rm, 12:30

QUEER SPIRIT, Connection Center, 3:00

CONFIRMATION CLASS, Living Room, 4:00

WELCOME UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE, AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS!

Join us in the main entrance (narthex) after worship for a time of fellowship.

To learn more: KLowry@CovenantWeb.org, 216.421.0482, ext. 236; CovenantStudentMinistries.org.

✠ CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Session has called a congregational meeting immediately following worship for the for the purpose of electing elders, deacons, trustees, and officers of the society (church).

✠ **APRIL AND MAY ADULT FORUMS:** The Ministry of Faith Formation presents a series of forums on Faith and the Arts. Members and staff will share how their spiritual journeys intersect with their creative endeavors. Today, member Jenny Conner will share how faith has impacted her work in musical performance and composition. Join us in Beckwith Hall at 11:30 am. Next week: Hugh Burtner on Faith and Poetry.

✠ **USHERS TODAY** are Jim & Nancy Smekal, Jim Greene, Dan Carroll and Nick Tomko. Greeting is Stephanie Johnson. Communion servers are Barb Clint, Marjie & Mike Heines, Julie Mailey, Nancy Matz and Stephanie Johnson.

✠ **OUR LAY WORSHIP LEADER** is Sam Senyo, a native of Virginia and an Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University. Sam joined the COTC community shortly after arriving in Cleveland two years ago.

✠ **THIS WEEK AT COVENANT:** **Monday:** Case Concert Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 6:00 pm; **Tuesday:** Staff Meeting, Office, 9:30 am; Bereavement Group, Herrick Room, 6 pm; **Wednesday** Twelve Steps to Freedom, Beckwith Hall, 5:30-6:30 pm; Case Concert Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7:00 pm; **Thursday:** Connection Center and Student Food Pantry open, 12-5 pm; Theology on Tap, The Jolly Scholar, 5:30 pm; Connect (college student meal and fellowship), Connection Center/Living Room, 5:30 pm; Handbells, Conference Room, 6:30 pm; Choir, Choir Room, 7:30 pm; **Friday:** CEIRS Board Meeting, Library, 8:30 am; Lower Level Meeting, Library, 10 am; Choral Equipment Move, Sanctuary, 11:30; Lunchtime Carillon Concert, Church Lawn, 12:15; Connection Center open, 12-5 pm; Restore Yoga, Crèche, 4 pm; **Saturday:** Cleveland Guitar Orchestra, Choir Room, 9:30 am, Saturday Tutoring Program, Lower Level, 10 am.

✠ **OUT OF THE OFFICE:** Melanie Marsh Baum, Kevin Lowry, Amy Starr Redwine, and Mindy Stewart will be out of the office on a leadership retreat Monday through Wednesday. Joining them in Atlanta for the retreat are elders Barb Clint and Jim Smekal, member (and elder-nominee) Omar Siddiq, and CSM participant and CWRU sophomore Gillian Prader-Lee. During this time, Revs. Susanne Carter and Ken Jones are available in the event of an urgent pastoral need. Please contact the church office.

✠ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Our final spring Sunday of volunteering at North Church is next week, April 15. Please consider joining a group of Covenant members from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm in preparing and serving the community meal that follows the North Church worship service. Sign up through the church office.

✠ **SPRINGTIME MUSIC CONCERTS:** Join us for a carillon concert Friday, April 13 at 12:15pm, with Covenant Carillonneur, George Leggiero. Tuesday Noon Organ Concerts resume on April 24 with guest French organist, Vincent Warnier.

✠ **CHORAL COLLABORATION CONCERT:** Friday, April 20, 8:00pm. The Covenant Choir joins the CWRU Concert Choir, the Bach Children's Chorus of Toronto, the Beaumont School Women's Chorale, and the University Circle Symphony Orchestra in presenting John Rutter's Mass of the Children. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online.

✠ **COVENANT CLASSICS:** On Wednesday, April 18th, at 11:15 a.m. Laura DeMarco, the Plain Dealer reporter, will talk about her new book *Lost Cleveland*. A box lunch will follow. Vegetarian and gluten free options are available. The suggested donation is \$10. Sign up in the church office by April 15th. Guests are welcome.

✠ **WE PRAY FOR** Judy Bourne, Akeya Clark (Marie Jones' niece), Connie Brand, Chris Chaves, Rachel Clevenger, Marlene Finkenthal (David Finkenthal's mother), Joe Garrett, Brenda Hall, Chick Holtkamp, Dee Hough, Cindi Johnson, Shaun Kuter, Elizabeth Mierke, Greg Madison, Ward Porch, Sue Salvator, Liam Stewart & Emilee Stewart (Mindy Stewart's nephew and sister), Louise Wolfcale, Gabriel (Jenny Conner's grand-nephew), Ray Tomko & Helen Kawecki (Nick Tomko's grandparents) and Marilyn Rossiter. We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, or are homebound; the patients, family, and staff in our surrounding hospitals; and those who have placed prayer requests in our Carpenter's Box.

✠ **BELIEVING GOD CALLS US TO BE PEACEMAKERS**, each month we pray for people affected by gun violence, marked by the tolling of the tower bell. Since a gunman opened fire at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012, killing 26 people, 20 of them children; 924 people in Cuyahoga County have been killed by guns. Since last month, 15 more individuals have died by gun violence in Cuyahoga County. The names of those at least 18 years of age are: Ryan Michael Chappell, Dallas King, Miriam Johnson, Pasha Leuna Thomas, Curtis Lamont Britton, James David Mullins, Joshua Derek Bowers, Arriano John Cesa, Janice Lou Cesa, Nicholas Shane Russell, Vasyl Skubyak, Gary Lee Cowley, and Stanimar Grujicic. Eight of those who died were by suicide, and one victim was under eighteen.

