

OCCUPY ADVENT

with Church of the Covenant



WELCOME

We are glad you are here!
Convinced of God's grace,
the Church of the Covenant
seeks to be a welcoming
spiritual home, live God's
inclusive love, express
Christ's compassion, and
do justice in the world.

The Cragin Peal

The McGaffin Carillon

George Leggiero, *Carillonneur*

Prelude

Master Tallis' Testament

Peter Bennett, organ

Herbert Howells

Welcome

Rev. Melanie Marsh Baum, *Associate Pastor*

* Celebration of Community

Introit

Procession from A Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28

Chancel Choir

Benjamin Britten

Hodie Christus natus est: hodie Salvator apparuit:

Today, Christ is born: today the Savior has appeared:

Hodie in terra canunt angeli laetantur archangeli:

Today the angels sing on earth and the archangels rejoice:

Hodie exsultant justi dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia!

Today the just exult, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

* Lighting of the Advent Candle

Bromelmeier & Haiss Family

One: Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope. We light it again as we remember that with the coming of Christ there is a new hope for the restoration of God's creation. The poet, Wendell Berry, wrote: "When despair for the world grows in me... I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water."

All: **We think of the 23rd Psalm, "He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul."**

GATHER

We gather to praise the
triune God, confess our sin,
and seek God's grace.

ADVENT

"Advent" means coming
or arrival. In this season
leading up to Christmas,
we celebrate Christ's
coming and look with
longing for Christ to come
again. We watch and pray
with expectant hope for
God's justice and peace.

LAY WORSHIP LEADER

Jim Prince has been a
member since 1988, along
with his wife Sue. He is a
Senior Database
Administrator at CWRU.
Jim serves on Trustees
and Ministry of Service. In
their free time, Jim and
Sue enjoy attending the
great theater available in
Cleveland, and spending
time with their daughters,
Cathy and Julia, and their
families, including their
adorable grandsons Owen
and Grady.

Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent.

When we light this candle of Peace, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. Even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

Let us worship the God who teaches us the peace that comes from justice, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn 13

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Prepare the Way

* Call to Confession

Jim Prince, *Lay Worship Leader*

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, During this holiday season, it is easy to think of, and do for, others. But we often seem to forget about others during the rest of the year. We focus on our own busy lives, and ignore the ongoing needs of many in our city, state, nation, and around the world. We ask you to keep the spirit of caring and sharing that we feel at this time of the year, alive within our hearts throughout the year. Give us the will to use our resources to help those in need, whatever that need may be. We ask for your forgiveness as we silently confess our sins.

* Silent Confession of Sin

* Declaration of Forgiveness

One: Friends, hear the good news! 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

Hymn 23, refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Prayer for Illumination

Jim Prince

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:3-11

MUSIC NOTES

Ceremony of Carols (1942) was conceived by British composer Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) for a Christmas vespers mass. Chancel Choir opens and closes our Advent service with bookend settings of the chant, *Hodie Christus natus est*. The anthem is a musical paradox in which the typically pastoral harp plays in a martial style. Likewise, the choir sings a "carol" that foretells how the Christ Child will one day defeat Satan and hell, giving us everlasting life. Perhaps with this paradox, we might consider how we can give more of ourselves to others this Advent season and, in turn, spend less. Chancel Choir soloist Anna O'Connell shares her instrumental talents as our harpist today.

ENCOUNTER

We receive the good news of God's love, mercy, and justice revealed to us in the Bible. The Word is proclaimed in scripture, sermon, and, on some Sundays, through the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Anthem

Chancel Choir

This little Babe from A Ceremony of Carols

Benjamin Britten

This little Babe so few days old, Is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake, Though he himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmèd wise, The gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field, His naked breast stands for a shield;

His battering shot are babish cries, His arrows looks of weeping eyes,

His martial ensigns Cold and Need, And feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitchèd in a stall, His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes; Of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to would, The angels' trumps alarum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight; Stick to the tents that he hath pight.

Within his crib is surest ward; This little Babe will be thy guard.

If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy, Then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

Time for Young Disciples

Kevin Lowry,

Interim Director of Student and Family Ministries

Parting Response

VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel Shall come to thee O Israel.

Second Lesson

Luke 3:1-3, 7-20

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Amy Starr Redwine, Pastor

Spend Less

* Hymn 36

CRANHAM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Joys and Concerns

Melanie Marsh Baum

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Petition

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.

Congregational Amen

AMEN VENI EMMANUEL

All are invited to sing.



A - men, A - - - men, A - - - - - men.

RESPOND

Having heard God's word proclaimed, we respond with music, prayers, and by offering to God a portion of the financial resources we have received.

Scan the QR code below to access online giving, where you can make a one-time gift or set up a recurring donation. Thank you for your generous response to God's gracious love!



Offertory	Anna O'Connell, harp
<i>Interlude</i> from A Ceremony of Carols	Benjamin Britten
* Doxology	OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.** Amen	
* Prayer of Dedication	
* Hymn 10	WINCHESTER NEW
<i>On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry</i>	
* Charge & Benediction	
Choral Postlude	Chancel Choir
<i>Recession</i> from A Ceremony of Carols	Benjamin Britten
Carillon Postlude	
<i>Stuttgart</i>	Roy Hamlin Johnson

DECEMBER COVENANT COMMONS

December 9th — Fair Trade Presentation and Market

December 16th — Giving Tree Celebration

December 23rd – Book Discussion: *Before I Had the Words*, Skylar Kergil

Copies of *Before I Had the Words* are available for purchase in the Church Office. In *Before I had the Words*, YouTube personality, author, and transgender advocate, Skylar Kergil reflects on coming of age while struggling to understand his gender. This is a groundbreaking chronicle of change, loss, discovery, pain, and relief. Kergil reveals to the reader his transition from female to male and brings new meaning to the phrase "formative years."

COVENANT STUDENT MINISTRIES

WELCOME UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE, AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS!

Covenant Student Ministries is here to support your spiritual journey, regardless of your religious or spiritual tradition. For more information or to talk with someone, contact Kevin, our campus chaplain, at klowry@covenantweb.org, text/call 330-988-0490, or visit www.CovenantStudentMinistries.org.

Join us for our Connect Meal every Thursday at 5:30pm in the Connection Center Living Room. We provide the dinner; you bring the conversation.

Student News: Maddy Yankell will be performing her Senior recital today at 12:00 pm in Harkness Chapel. All are invited to attend. Maddy has been an active member of Covenant Student Ministries and the Chancel Choir during her time at CWRU.

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SEND

Having been nurtured and nourished through worship, we are sent from this place to glorify God in the service of our daily lives. Please be mindful of those who wish to stay and listen to the postlude.

TODAY

8:00 Music Rehearsal

9:30 Nursery, *Creche*

10:00 Worship, *Sanctuary*

10:15 Pageant Prep

11:00 Reception, *Dowd*

Commons

11:30: Covenant

Commons: Community

Fair Trade Sale, *Dowd*

Commons

12:30 Science of

Spirituality, *Sonia Golden*

Room

A Stephen Minister will be in Christ Chapel after worship to talk or pray.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

USHERS TODAY ARE Tracy Blake, Dan Carroll, and Nancy & Jim Smekal.

GREETERS TODAY ARE Helen Kunsman and Shirley Thompson.

FLOWERS TODAY given in loving memory of Ferne Mailey by her son, Fred, and in loving memory of Raymond Brown by his wife, Zoe Ann, and family.

MUSIC CONCERTS: Tuesday Noon Organ Concerts: December 4, 11, and 18 at 12:05-12:45pm. Music and Readings for the Season. **McGaffin Carillon Concerts:** Monday-Friday, December 17-31(except December 18 & 25), 12:15 pm.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: There are two advent devotionals available to help you encounter the season of Advent in the midst of your daily lives. *Advent for Everyone* by N.T. Wright and *Mandalas and Candles and Prayers* by Sharon Syfarth Garner are available for \$7 each in the Church Office.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES: Deacons are asking for cookie donations for their Christmas luncheon at Ernest J. Bohn Senior Center on Tuesday, December 18. Please bring cookies labeled for Ernest Bohm to the church office.

GIVING TREE GIFT TAG SELECTION, DECEMBER 9 IN THE RECEPTION ROOM: The Deacons invite you to provide Christmas gifts for three of Covenant's mission partners: Cleveland School of the Arts, Ernest J. Bohn Center, and Daniel E. Morgan School. Please bring gifts to Dowd Commons before worship on Sunday, December 16.

GIVING TREE ORCHESTRA & CHORUS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16: Calling all instruments and voices! Dust off that French horn in your attic and join the Giving Tree Orchestra and Chorus. Open to those who can read music – all ages and experience levels. Sign up in the church office.

DECEMBER WORLD PEACE DAY: On Wednesday December 12 at 7:30 pm, people all over the world will be praying and sending Reiki for Peace on Earth in their own time zones. The idea is to create a wave of healing energy that surrounds the planet, and gains strength as it goes. Please take a minute to pray for peace at this time or join the healing group in the sanctuary to do this in community. For more information contact Sandy Ammon at sandymon@sbcglobal.net.

HOMELESS STAND DOWN: While you are doing your Christmas shopping, remember to buy items to support the Homeless Stand Down. They need the following items: new/gently used coats (XL only), winter boots (waterproof), new men's and women's underwear, new men's and women's socks, and new/gently used scarves, hats and gloves. The deadline for items is Sunday, December 30.

LEADERSHIP

MINISTERS:

All the members of the church

Amy Starr Redwine,

Senior Pastor

asredwine@covenantweb.org

Melanie Marsh Baum,

Associate Pastor

mbaum@covenantweb.org

Kevin Lowry, Interim Director of Student and Family Ministries

klowry@covenantweb.org

Matthew Garrett,

Music Director

mgarrett@covenantweb.org

Jonathan Moyer, Organist

jmoyer@covenantweb.org

George Leggiero, Carillonneur

gleggiero@covenantweb.org

SESSION

Will Klein, Clerk of Session,
clerk@covenantweb.org

CLASS OF 2019: Jenny Conner,
LaShawna Adams Mitchell,
Jim Smekal, Lou Stark

CLASS OF 2020:

Kitty Jarjisian, Chris
Langmack, Suchi Nelson

CLASS OF 2021: Barb Clint,
Elizabeth Hagen, Reaver
Nelson, Omar Siddiq, Jim
Tomaszewski

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2019:

Matthew Garrett,
Marjorie Heines, Beth Holbein
Pat Owen-Keltner, Mildred
Russin, Liz Shriver, Ann Stark
CLASS OF 2020: Tom Denbow,
Stephanie Johnson, Julie
Mailey, Lucy & Nancy Matz,
Lynda Starr

CLASS OF 2021: Stacey Booker,
Dan Carroll, Cathy Luck, Ker
Rock, Ryan Szafranec

WE PRAY FOR: Judy Bourne, Sylvia Clapp (Sandy Ammon's mother), Akeya Clark (Marie Jones's niece), Marlene & Paul Dirksen, Rob Engel & Lynne Hoffman-Engel, Marlene & William Finkenthal (David Finkenthal's parents), Rolf (Crunch) and Marilyn Krotseng, Greg Madison, Barbara McGhee, Bette Posch, Carol Roe, Noelene Joy Rout, Danita Wells, Anne Wombwell deConingh and Gabriel (Jenny Conner's grand-nephew). We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, or homebound; patients, family, and staff in our surrounding hospitals; and those who have left 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; 1,068 people in Cuyahoga County have been killed by guns. Since last month, 16 more individuals have died by gun violence in Cuyahoga County. The names of those at least 18 years of age are: Devonte Orr, Danny Gonzalez Quelas, DeShawn Jordan, Maurice Edward Hodge, Roger Joseph Ashley, Keziah Lafayette Julianno Sims, Samuel Chiappetta, Dennis Joel Lucak, Helen Louise Lucak, James Harold Frank, Dylon Vincent Chmura, Sharon L. Bohland, Kevin Christopher Lewis, DiJohn D. Thomas, Gregory Black Sr, and Brandon Robert Lee. Six of those who died were by suicide.

OUT OF THE OFFICE: Jonathan Moyer is on recital leave from December 6th through December 9th, playing Handel's *Messiah* with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra.

EMAIL CHANGE: Congregation member Martha Goble's email has been hacked. Please use her new email address: goblemartha44@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: **Monday:** Saturday Tutoring Program Steering Committee, Library, 6 pm; **Tuesday:** Staff Meeting, Office, 9:45 am; Cache Retail Shop, 10 am-4 pm; Bible Study, Library, 11 am; Noon Organ Concert, Sanctuary, 12 pm; Bereavement Group, Herrick Room, 6 pm; **Wednesday:** Twelve Steps to Freedom, Beckwith Hall, 5:30 pm; Peace Service, Sanctuary, 7:30 pm; **Thursday:** Theology on Tap, The Jolly Scholar, 5:30 pm; Connect, Living Room, 5:30 pm; Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:30 pm.

TRUSTEES

CLASS OF 2019:

Russell Hack, Ann Williams

CLASS OF 2020: Jim Prince,

Harriet Wadsworth

CLASS OF 2021:

Patty Fowler, Nancy Smekal

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY:

Martha Goble, President

Keith Kallay, Treasurer

Jim Mate, Secretary

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