* Please stand as you are able

The Cragin Peal

The McGaffin Carillon

George Leggiero, Carillonneur

Prelude

Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam, BWV 684

Mark Edwards, organ

J.S. Bach

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Mark A. Medina

Joys and Concerns

Statement of Opportunity

Bob Ault

* Celebration of Community

Introit

At the River

Nanette Canfield, soprano

Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river, where bright angel’s feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God.
Yes, we’ll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.

Soon we’ll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.
Yes, we’ll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.

* Call to Worship

O God, some of us are discouraged and long for your embrace.

Wash us with your love.

Some of us are weary, weighed down by the desperation of this world.

Wash us with your hope.

Welcome

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.

Gather

We gather to worship God on the Lord’s Day (Sunday) because the Gospels testify that Jesus rose from the dead early on the first day of the week.

Child Care

Child care is provided for infants, toddlers and children in pre-K in our Creché, located in the education wing. See an usher for directions.

Music Notes

We celebrate the baptism of Christ this week, through music and spoken word. Long-time Covenant soloist Nanette Canfield helps to gather our spirits for worship as she sings of gathering at the saintly river of God. Aaron Copland (1900-1990) set
Some of us are anxious
    and seek refuge from chaotic lives.
    **Wash us with your peace.**
Some of us are restless,
    yearning for renewal or transformation.
    **Wash us with your grace.**
However we come into your presence,
    pour out your Spirit upon us.
    **Let us come to the waters of baptism.**
    **Let us worship God!**

*Hymn 461*  
**God Is Here!**  
ABBOT’S LEIGH

*Call to Confession*  
Elder Norma Shuskey, Lay Worship Leader

*Corporate Prayer of Confession*

Heavenly Father. In our hurried lives of emails and texts, racing from commitment to commitment, we confess that we ignore Christ’s directive to reach out to the less fortunate and to act on their behalf. We confess that we are too often aggressive on the highways and insensitive in electronic communications. Forgive our self-centeredness and dispassion when it comes to how we spend our time, talents and money. Forgive us when we are timid in our Christianity, silent in our aversion to evil and “too busy” to be Christ-like in our thinking and actions. We ask your forgiveness as we silently confess our sins.

*Silent Confession of Sin*

*Declaration of Forgiveness*

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. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri*

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**

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*SACRED MUSIC CONTENTS FOR THE SERVICE*

this version of the tune, originally composed by American pastor Robert Lowry (1826-1899).

CWRU Music Education Alum Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970) created the contemporary gospel anthem, *Take Me to the Water* by combining texts from two African-American spirituals: “Down by the Riverside” and “Wade in the Water.”

*Children of the Heavenly Father* is an English translation of a Swedish folk tune, *TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA*. The original author of the hymn text was Carolina Sandell Berg (1832-1903), daughter of a Lutheran pastor, and the English translation that you hear today was completed by author Ernst W. Olson (1870-1958) for a Lutheran hymnal. The baptism of young children into the family of Christ, as we have recently seen in our congregation, is central to acknowledging our positions as children of God.

We welcome guest organist Mark Edwards to our service as Jonathan Moyer is traveling in Hungary and Germany with students from the Oberlin Conservatory. Mark is assistant professor of harpsichord at Oberlin, and he served as guest organist at Covenant last year.
Anthem
Take Me to the Water
Chancel Choir
Rollo Dilworth

Take me to the water. Take me to the sea.
Take me to the river so that my spirit can be free.
Gonna lay my burdens down, down by the riverside.
Gonna wade in the water, the water that flows both deep and wide.
Take me, take me, take me to the water.

Gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside.
Take me, take me, take me to the water.

Gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside.
Take me, take me, take me to the water.

Wade in the water. Wade in the water, children.
Wade in the water. God’s a-gonna trouble the water.

Take me to the water. Take me to the sea.
Take me to the river so that my spirit can be free.
Take me, take me, take me to the water.

Time for Young Disciples
Trustee Nancy Smekal

All children in Kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to the Living Room in the education wing for singing, Bible lessons and creative activities.

Parting Response
Hymn 535
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.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson
Pew Bible p.670-671 NRSV
Isaiah 42:1-9
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson
Pew Bible p.3 NRSV
Matthew 3:13-17
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon
Baptism: Entering the Human Experience
Rev. Mark A. Medina

OUR LAY WORSHIP LEADER is Norma Shuskey
Norma has been part of the Covenant Community since birth. Her mother joined the Church of the Covenant when she was a student at Mather College, now part of CWRU. Norma formally joined this congregation in 1960, and in this sanctuary, she was married to her husband, Gary, almost 48 years ago. Norma has two sons, two daughters-in-law and four grandchildren. Over the years, Norma has worked alongside and learned from many extraordinary Covenant members on numerous committees, commissions and boards. Norma currently serves on Session, is a member of the Ministry of Service and works in the Cache.

TODAY
8:00 Music Rehearsals
Sanctuary
9:30 Nursery
Education Wing
9:45 Carillon and Organ Prelude
10:00 Worship
Sanctuary
10:15 Music and Ministry
Education Wing
12:30 Science of Spirituality
Sonia Golden Room
1:30 First Brazilian Church
Yost Chapel

ENCOUNTER
We receive the good news of God’s love, mercy, and justice revealed to us through the Bible.
Time for Quiet Reflection

* Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe in God, the Father** Almighty?
   I believe in God, the Father** almighty,
   creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
   I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
   who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
   born of the Virgin Mary,
   suffered under Pontius Pilate,
   was crucified, died, and was buried;
   he descended to the dead.
   On the third day he rose again;
   he ascended into heaven,
   he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**
   and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
   I believe in the Holy Spirit,
   the holy catholic church,
   the communion of saints,
   the forgiveness of sins,
   the resurrection of the body,
   and the life everlasting. Amen.
   **or Maker

* Hymn 262   God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand   NATIONAL HYMN

Prayers of the People

   Includes ringing the Prayer Bell for those impacted by gun violence.

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

All are invited to sing.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Children of the Heavenly Father

Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather,
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge ever was given.
God his own doth tend and nourish; in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them; in his mighty arms he bears them.
Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.
Praise the Lord in joyful numbers, your Protector never slumbers;
at the will of your Defender every foe then must surrender.
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.
Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather,
estling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge ever was given.

* 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 525

Here I Am, Lord

* Benediction

Postlude

Chaconne in G

Georg Böhm

Carillon Postlude

Water Music

Hornpipe, Air, Minuets

Georg Frideric Handel

Thank you for being mindful of those who wish to stay and listen to the postlude.
**Ushering Today** are: Bob Ault, Clint and Patty Fowler, Jim Prince, and Paul Williams.

**Greeters Today** are: Arnie and Susan Dahm.

**The Flowers In The Chancel Urn** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gary P. Holbein in honor of his birthday on January 13th by Beth Holbein.

**Honor an event or a person** with a lovely bouquet of flowers! Simply contact the church office, sign up in the church office or conveniently pay on the website. The cost is $85 per arrangement.

**We Keep in our Prayers:** Jud Branning (Jonathan Moyer’s brother-in-law), Collin Denbow (who is leaving for Ethiopia with the Peace Corp), Thelma Everhart, Janet Garrett (Matthew’s mother), Iris A. Harvie (friend of Susan & Arnie Dahm), David Keltner, Greg Madison, George Peters (Michael’s father), Lyn Cooper Tomaszewski, Kim Voss, 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 left prayer requests in our Carpenter's Box.

**Our Prayers** are with John Bourne and family on the death of his wife Judy on January 8th.

**This Week at Covenant (January 13– January 18, 2020)**

*Office hours are weekdays from 9 am until 5 pm.*

**Monday:** Ministry of Faith Formation, Office, 7 pm.

**Tuesday:** Staff Meeting, Office, 9:30 am; Cache Resale Shop, 10 am; Tuesday Morning Handbell Ringers, Handbell Rehearsal Room, 10:45 pm; Bereavement Group, Herrick Room, 6 pm.

**Wednesday:** 12 Steps to Freedom, Beckwith Hall, 5:30 pm; Ministry of Service, Office, 6 pm.

**Thursday:** Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Handbell Rehearsal Room, 6:30 pm; Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room/Yost Chapel, 7:30 pm.

**Friday:** Carillon Concert, 12:15 pm.

**Saturday:** Saturday Tutoring Program, Lower Level, 10 am.

**Believing God Calls Us To be Peacemakers**

Since a gunman opened fire at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012, killing 26 people, 20 of them children; 1,268 people in Cuyahoga County have been killed by guns. Since last month, 11 more individuals have died by gun violence in Cuyahoga County. The names of those at least 18 years of age are: Norman DeShawn Ross Jr., Dillard Carl Kennedy Jr., Kevin King, Adam Joseph Driver, Charles Edwards Jr., Jayme Lee Smith Sr., Jimmy Lamonte Thomas, James William Moore, Hunter R. Romell, David Catlin Brown, and Catera Lashen Fowler. Three of those who died were by suicide. Go to **GodBeforeGuns.org** to see how to become engaged.

**Food Collection | Next Sunday January 19 (Third Sunday)**

Next Sunday we collect food for our Food Pantry. This is the third Sunday so food collected can be used in the bags distributed the last Wednesday and Friday of the month. The Pantry is also open Thursday afternoons for students, and for emergencies. **We can use beef stew,**
canned vegetables, chili, canned soup, fruit cups, pudding cups, tuna fish, pasta, spaghetti sauce, jelly or jam, corn muffin mix, and spam or canned chicken.

Young+ Adult Forums Start January 12th
The Ministry of Faith Formation is excited to share that after-worship Christian Education programming will begin this Sunday, January 12th. Our Mission Partner: God Before Guns will present their seminar in Dowd Commons. Our complete schedule will be available in the eNews or by email.

Join the Ministry of Faith Formation on January 13th for our First Meeting of the New Year!
The Ministry of Faith Formation provides opportunities through worship, education, and music to nourish the spiritual development of God’s people engaged with the Covenant Community. Meetings are open to all who choose to participate. We will review winter/spring educational programming for children/youth and young+ adults during our January 13th meeting, from 7-8 pm. We will also finalize plans for Black History month activities and explore future possibilities for the Covenant Lecture program. Contact moderator Matthew Garrett for additional information: FaithFormation@Covenantweb.org.

Saturday Tutoring Begins January 18th
Saturday Tutoring will meet THIS Saturday, January 18th in the Lower Level at 10 am.

The Sanctuary Birds
The birds you see in the sanctuary are cranes. In the Japanese tradition, these birds signify “happiness”. They also are symbols of peace, hope and healing in challenging times.

Theology On Tap Is Back
and will meet every OTHER Tuesday at The Jolly Scholar at 5:30. For more information, email John Marsh at: marshes@ameritech.net

Would You Like To Meet With Reverend Medina?
If so, stop in at the church or email him at mmmedina@covenantweb.org to set up a time.

Help Yourself To Books & Records!
Many of Karen Burt’s books and records were given to the Church of the Covenant after her death. Through January, these items are on shelves in the Reception Room. Please take whatever you would like, and tell your friends—especially those who like to knit, or still listen to LP’s! We are sure that Karen would be pleased to share her treasures with her Covenant friends and others.

Covenant Callers Needed
Become a Covenant Caller and reach out to a member you haven’t seen in a while to reconnect or check on them. Covenant Callers contact members who are unable to attend church on a regular basis by phone or visiting their home/residence. To learn how rewarding this ministry is, speak with current Covenant Callers Gale Bromelmeier, Stephanie Johnson, Julie Mailey or Nancy Matz

If You Would Like A Copy Of The Kairos Report,
they are available at the church office, or you can access it at this link: bit.ly/KairosReport2019
Children Are Welcome Here
Children are always welcome to fully participate in worship. We invite children to join us up front in the Worship Center for various activities during the service.

Child Care and Activities
All children in Kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to the Living Room in the educational wing for singing, Bible lessons and creative activities.

Students Welcome Here
Church of the Covenant is a welcoming and inclusive spiritual home as you navigate your educational journey. We are here to help you flourish during your time in University Circle. We would love to get to know you better! To connect with our student ministries opportunities contact us at studentministries@CovenantWeb.org.

Custodial Update
Resumes are being accepted and reviewed for both a full-time and part-time position.

Looking Ahead

2019 Pledges
There is still time to fulfill your pledge for 2019. You can do so through the end of January 2020. However, it will NOT be tax deductible for 2019.

Stock Donations Information
NEW INFORMATION REGARDING DONATIONS OF STOCKS: PNC BANK
DTC # 2616 Reference: 21-75-073-6933938 – Church of the Covenant - Gift

Generosity Is Sharing God’s Gifts
We are close to completing our Stewardship Effort for 2020 as well as trying to finalize the pledge contributions for 2019.

Here is where we are as of January 9, 2020. January 31, 2020 will complete this campaign so we hope you will respond appropriately. Thank you for being the loving component of Generosity Is Sharing God’s Gifts.

Goal for 2020 is $225,000
Total–$207,731 This is 92% of what we need.

Goal for 2019 was $275,814 pledged
$241,116 received This is 87% of what we need.

Covenant Partnering with North Church
You are invited to be part of a team of six to eight people on January 26th, 2020 from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, to assist in preparing and serving the community meal that follows the worship service at North Church. Sign up in the church office. For more information, contact Ministry of Service member Bob Ault.