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.

Encounter
We receive the good news of God’s love, mercy, and justice revealed to us through the Bible.

The Church of the Covenant
Sunday, March 15, 2020
Third Sunday in Lent
Service of Worship
for the Lord’s Day

* Please stand as you are able

The Cragin Peal (Click here to listen)

The McGaffin Carillon Organ

Prelude (Click here to listen. Skip ad.)
Le jardin suspendu
"The Hanging Garden"
"The ideal, perpetual pursuit and escape of the artist, an inaccessible and inviolable refuge"
(words by the composer)

Welcome & Announcements (Click to listen)
Joys and Concerns

* Celebration of Community

Introit (No recording available)

He Touches the Broken Heart

Ah. He touches the broken heart, from secret sorrow springs a tree of light; the roots deep in darkness, the branches of flaming fire, the leaves a thousand blazing torches. Ah.

* Call to Worship (Click to listen)

Come, you who are thirsty—
here is living water.
Come, you who are weary—
here is the fount of eternal life.
Let us drink from the well of grace.
Let us worship the Lord!
* Hymn 281 (Click here) Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah  CWM Rhonda

* Call to Confession (Click here)  Rev. Mark A. Medina

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, whose goodness extends even beyond our imagining, we confess that we are not always obedient to your will. We are sometimes consumed with our own needs and wants, instead of stepping up to following Jesus’ lessons on compassion and understanding. All too often we complain over trivial matters, when all we need is faith that you are there for us. Open us to your Spirit. Renew us by the power of your love to find joy in following your way. We ask your forgiveness as we silently confess our sins.

* Silent Confession of Sin

* Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* Corporate Response (No recording available)  CHRISTE SANCTORUM

Organ preludes throughout the season of Lent feature works based on ostinato or “repeating” bass lines or harmonic patterns with titles such as ground, chaconne, and passacaglia. Each musical variation is symbolic of our Lenten journey through repetitions of prayer that lead to spiritual awakening. These works parallel the “journey” oriented choral music that concludes each service.

Anthem (No recording available)  Chancel Choir and Children’s Choir

Ukrainian Prayer  Oleksander Tyshenko
Arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram

Early each and every morning, when I wake my heart is yearning; Lord above, please hear my prayer. Give us sunshine, give us water, give your blessing to our nation; lift us out of our despair.
And I lift my hands and reach toward the heavens, begging you, dear Lord up above, hold us in your loving hands forever, Lord, shower our needy nation with your love.

Oh, dear Lord, we are your children, teach us how we should be living; with each day may we be renewed. People living, people dying, all the same our hearts are crying for the faith and hope and love that come from you.

Text by Deneen Alexandrow Turner

Time for Young Disciples  Kaori Hongo, Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministry

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 (No recording available)  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  Please pray for God’s word to speak to you.

Please read the following verses using your own bible.

Old Testament Lesson  Pew Bible p.64 NRSV  Exodus 17:1-7

This is the word of the Lord.  Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson  Pew Bible p.94-95 NRSV  John 4:5-26

This is the word of the Lord.  Thanks be to God

Sermon (Click here)  Water for the Journey  Rev. Mark A. Medina

Time for Quiet Reflection

* Affirmation of Faith (Click here)  Confession of Belhar

We believe

• that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;
• that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of

OUR LAY WORSHIP LEADER is Ann Williams.

After attending the beautiful Christmas Eve service in 1999, Ann started attending Sunday morning worship where she found inspiration from the preaching and music. She also felt very welcomed and knew this would be her church home. She joined the church in 2002. She continues to come to the Covenant because of the fellowship and the many great programs Covenant offers. Ann has served as a Deacon, an Elder and is on the Board of Trustees. You can find her in the Cache’ every Tuesday helping customers find great bargains. She is the mother of a daughter and son, and grandmother to three beautiful grandchildren.

CONTACT

LEADERSHIP
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God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;

• that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;

In Jesus Christ, we are one in love, acceptance, justice and peace. Amen

* Hymn 510 (Click here) Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts QUEBEC

Prayers of the People Please pray this Prayer on your own.

God our Creator, who calls the stars by name and sets the fireflies dancing, who makes the mountains burst into song and emboldens the purple crocus pushing up through the snow, we pause to give deep thanks for the beauty which surrounds us always and for the promise that life goes on.

Set in our hearts a hope more resilient than the coronavirus, and assure us of your power to bring good even out of the most formidable diseases.

God of healing and hope, we pray that you would cool the fevered brow of the sick and speak of love stronger than death to those who lay dying. Give healing compassion to all who care for the sick, and encourage those facing isolation with your peace-giving presence. We pray that coronavirus would move us to reflect upon our responsibility, individually and together, in caring for creation. Let your righteous anger spur us to make the long-overdue changes, so that all of creation might have room to breathe.

Rein in fear, we pray, before it becomes contagious, and nurture trust to form the basis of our dealings with one another. Let the tireless efforts of those on the frontiers of research lead to new and effective treatments, and guide those in positions of power by principles of truth and integrity.

God of tender mercies, we ask humbly that the painful awareness of our own vulnerability lead not to greater fear, but to deeper faith – a faith that nothing in all of creation can separate us from your love – neither today, nor tomorrow.

Here us now, O God, as we join in one voice the prayer your Son taught us to pray. Our Father...
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 (No recording available)
All are invited to sing.

Invitation to Offering and Prayer of Dedication (Click here)

Donate to the Church of the Covenant by clicking here.

Offertory (Click here)  Sicut cervus  Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum,
As a hart longs for the flowing streams,
Ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.
So longs my soul for thee, O God.

Text: Psalm 42:1

* Offertory Response (No recording)  How Blessed Are You  Taizé Chant

Jacques Berthier

How blessed are you who are poor;
The Kingdom of God is yours, how blessed are you who are poor; the

Kingdom of God is yours. How
Choral Postlude (No recording available)

Chancel Choir

Wayfaring Stranger

arr. Joris van der Herten

I am a poor wayfaring stranger, traveling through this world of woe,
Yet there’s no sickness, toil, nor danger in that bright land to which I go.
I’m going there to see my father, I’m going there no more to roam!
I’m only going over Jordan, I’m only going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather ‘round me,
I know my way is rough and steep
But golden fields lie out before me
where souls redeemed their vigils keep.
I’m going home to see my mother, she said she’d meet me when I come
I’m only going over Jordan, I’m only going over home.

I’ll soon be free from every trial, my body sleep in the church-yard.
I’ll drop the cross of self-denial and enter on my great reward.
I’m going there to see my Savior, to sing his praise for evermore.
I’m only going over Jordan, I’m only going over home.

Carillon Postlude (Click here)

Honor an event or a person with a lovely bouquet of flowers! Contact the church or sign up in the office. Pay by cash, check on the website. The cost is $85 per arrangement.

We Keep in our Prayers: Thelma Everhart, Thedis Fipps, David and Edward Houry (relatives of David Gressley), David Keltner, Greg Madison, Reathel McWhorter, Gene Papp, George Peters (Michael’s father), Liam Stewart, Lyn Cooper Tomaszewski, Kim Voss, Kate and Paul Williams 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.

Easter Lily Order Form

To order Easter Lilies, you may continue to use the paper order form in the weekly bulletin or you can order online at: https://forms.gle/1Xijbh9kHWUXr8SEA Contact JW Keckley at: jkeckley@covenantweb.org with any questions. Thank you.
This Week at Covenant (March 16– March 21)

Monday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.
Tuesday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.
Wednesday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.
Thursday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.
Friday: Lunchtime Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 12:15 pm. Church Building is Closed.
Saturday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.

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

Online Donations
Our website's Giving page is up and running. You can now make donations and pledges from your phone or computer. Check it out at: covenantweb.org/giving

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.

Looking Ahead

Easter Candy Donations
The Covenant Easter Egg Hunt has always been a favorite for the children. We are asking for candy or monetary donations. Please bring your donations to the church office. If you have any questions please contact Kaori Hongo at khongo@covenantweb.org Thank you.

YOUTH SUNDAY May 10!!
We are excited to announce that our 2020 Youth Sunday will be on Mother’s Day!! We are looking for some helping hands as we prepare for this very important day! Dr. Jenny Conner is working with the kids, and we are exploring the many possibilities of our theme for this year! Please contact Kaori Hongo at: khongo@covenantweb.org if you are interested!!

Part-time Custodial Help
Covenant’s Personnel Committee continues to search for a part-time custodian (20-25 hours weekly with benefits) to complete the church’s custodial team. If you or someone you know can assist with this important search, please notify Willie (WHoward@covenantweb.org) or Kitty (cjarjisi@gmail.com). We appreciate your help!