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.

Encounter

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

The Cragin Peal (Right-click here to listen. Open in a new tab.)

The McGaffin Carillon
Prelude in Bb
George Leggiero, Carillonneur
Jef Denijn
Performed by Andre Kukolja on the carillon in Amersfoort, The Netherlands
(Right-click here to listen. Open in a new tab.)

Prelude (Right-click here to continue. Open in a new tab.)
Wondrous Love
Appalachian, arr. Dwight Gustafson
William Bender, viola
Jonathan Moyer, organ

Welcome & Announcements
Rev. Mark A. Medina
Joys and Concerns
Celebration of Community

Call to Worship
Lord Christ, open our eyes
to see clearly the light of the world.
Holy Spirit, illumine our minds
to perceive God’s glory shining among us.
Almighty God, prepare our hearts
to see, to trust, to worship the Messiah.
Let us worship God.
God moves in mysterious ways. As we continue with our worship together in virtual spaces, you should know that the music staff is sharing selections that were previously programmed, based on scripture readings and sermon themes. Our anthem this week is a poignant setting of Psalm 130 by John Rutter (b. 1945). The psalmist seems to be speaking from a place of distress, “I have called unto thee, O Lord,” which is followed by the admonition to Israel, “trust in the Lord.” While we may not be physically together to share the gift of music, know that we are all united in the act of listening and as a community of faith who trust in the Lord’s plenteous redemption.

The offertory is a recording of Yo-Yo Ma performing the Prelude to Bach’s (1685-1750) Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major. What makes this particular recording unique for our worship is that Ma intended this performance to represent “Culture—the way we express ourselves and understand each other—can bind us together as one world.” Know that our Covenant Community continues to thrive, every time we pause to think of one another.
Corporate Prayer of Confession

Wonder-working God, forgive us when preconceived notion cloud our vision and blind us to your activity in our lives.

We watch for signs of your glory in the successful and strong, in pious acts and answered prayers, in favorable outcomes and dreams fulfilled.

But you make yourself known in unexpected ways: in shepherd boys lifted to the throne and outcasts returned to community; in death-haunted valleys transformed by your presence, and ordinary pools made extraordinary by your grace, through water and mud, and a table prepared with sacrificial love.

We long for a salve that relieves our stubborn focus on inconsequential questions, and for water that heals our blindness to revelations of your love.

Open our eyes, illumine our minds, and prepare our hearts, to receive your amazing grace.

We ask your forgiveness as we silently confess our sins.

Silent Confession of Sin

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Our choral postlude this week features our own Covenant musicians from a previously recorded service. The Taizé community an ecumenical Christian body. Music from this community emphasizes simple melodic phrases that can be repeated, and are often sung in canon. French composer Berthier (1923-1994) composed much of the original music for this faith community.
Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord:  
Lord, hear my voice.  
O let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint.  
If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss:  
O Lord, who may abide it?  
For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be fear’d.  
I look for the Lord: my soul doth wait for him,  
and in his word is my trust.  
My soul flee-eth unto the Lord:  
before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.  
O Israel, trust in the Lord, with the Lord there is mercy:  
and with him is plenteous redemption.  
And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins.  
Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord:  
Lord, hear my voice.  

(Open in new tab)
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**  
The Great Physician  
Rev. Mark A. Medina

**Time for Quiet Reflection**

**Hymn 853**  
We are Marching in the Light of God

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**We Are Marching / Siyahamba**

We are marching, we are

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*Alternate text: dancing, singing, praying*

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Will Klein, Clerk of Session, clerk@coveweb.org
CLASS OF 2020: Mary Anne Bromelmeier, Kitty Jarjisian, Suchi Nelson, Norma Shuskey
CLASS OF 2021: Barb Clint, Dale Goode, Chris Langmack,
CLASS OF 2022: Heidi Braun, Kathy Farkas, Clint Fowler, Matthew Garrett, Sybil Marsh, Cathy Miller

**DEACONS**
CLASS OF 2020: Tom Denbow, Stephanie Johnson, Julie Mailey,
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CLASS OF 2022: Ronnie Bromelmeier, John Marsh, Nancy Matz, Sue Prince, Lyn Cooper Tomaszewski, Nick Tomko

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CLASS OF 2020: Jim Prince, Harriet Wadsworth
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CLASS OF 2022: Dennis Matz, Ann Williams

**OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY**
Martha Goble, President  
Keith Kallay, Treasurer  
Jim Mate, Secretary

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The Church of the Covenant
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Covenant@CovenantWeb.org
Eternal God, sustainer, provider, God of all wisdom and knowledge,
Our spirits are weary, our faith quivers, our minds get clouded by news of sickness
and death.
You know our thoughts before we express them, even the fears we dismiss,
you know them.
We cannot hide our feelings and worries from you.
So, as we are, we come to You, Oh God, asking for wisdom, for clear minds and
open hearts, for calm and assurance that, through the crisis, You are present.
Knowing that “the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray
as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words,”
We ask for wisdom and protection...
For medical personnel, scientists, doctors, nurses, and laboratory technicians.
For those around the world considering current and other health crises.
For health care personnel and caregivers.
We lift them up to You.
We ask for clear minds and open hearts as people navigate daily lives...
As closures, cancellations, and quarantines are enacted.
As families gather in their homes, some caring for those who are sick.
As we encounter neighbors in our neighborhoods, stores, and pharmacies.
We pray for the sick, those who have lost or are at risk of losing jobs in the
midst of this crisis,
for those whose health or social services will be or have been affected, for those
suffering the direct effects of this virus, locally and around the world.
Illumine us, Holy Spirit. Show us in what ways we can be of help as we care for self
and others.
We ask for calm, assurance, and strength.
May we all remember that, in the midst of any crisis,
Your grace reaches us,
Your hope enlightens us,
And Your love surrounds us all. Amen.

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

Click here to donate to the church.

Offertory (Right-click to view. Open in a new tab.)

Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major

Yo-Yo Ma
J.S. Bach

(Right-click here to continue audio. Open in new tab.)

Offertory Response

How Blessed Are You

Taizé Chant

Prayer of Dedication
**Benediction**

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge of God
and of his true Son, Christ Jesus our Lord;
And the blessing of the fullness of God,
Father, Son and Holy, Spirit,
will be with us,
today and ever more. Amen!

**Choral Postlude**

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.
Session Meeting Update
Thursday night, Session voted to extend the closing of the church until April 30th. This is in response to the Coronavirus pandemic that’s affecting our country.

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, Theodis 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, Erin Tomko, 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.

Would You Like To Meet With Reverend Medina?
If so, email him at mmedina@covenantweb.org

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

Easter Lilies
Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Easter Lily orders have been cancelled. More information to follow.

This Week at Covenant (March 23– March 28)

Monday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.
Tuesday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.
Wednesday: Food pantry, 10:00 – Noon.
   Church Building is Closed.
Thursday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.
Friday: Food pantry, 10:00 – Noon;
   Lunchtime Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 12:15 pm.
   Church Building is Closed.
Saturday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.
Kevin is back to work!
Kevin would like to express his gratitude for the love and support of the Covenant Community while he was on medical leave. Kevin will be in Cleveland on Tuesdays (and as needed) and working remotely the rest of the week. Kevin is available via email (klowry@covenantweb.org) or cell phone (text or call 330-988-0490).

Covenant Student Ministries has moved online.
Due to the COVID19 pandemic CSM has moved online with Virtual Gatherings on Sundays and Thursdays at 5:30 pm. (contact Kevin for login information). In addition Kevin is available for individual conversations and spiritual care in-person or virtually. You can connect with Kevin by texting or calling 330-988-0490 or by email klowry@Covenantweb.org.

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.

Coronavirus NOT Stopping Carillonneurs!
Despite the church being closed, George Leggiero will continue to play the Friday concerts to lift the spirits of the neighbors and especially the patients and families at University Hospital.

He will continue to ring the peal and play at 10am on Sunday mornings. The carillonneurs at St. Paul’s Cleveland Hts., the Church of the Saviour, and St. Christopher by the River are doing the same. Let’s not have the neighborhood be void of music when we can do something about it. It can remind people that despite the imposed isolation, the church is still here!

Also, in today’s Plain Dealer, section A, page A7, there is an article featuring George and our carillon!!

Send Us Your Photos
This is an invitation to Covenant members to share photos of you and your family (or a selfie) worshipping at home as we continue to deal with the pandemic that’s affecting our country. Email your photos to dmatz@covenantweb.org and we’ll start posting them on our e-news.
REMEMBER, no groups larger than 10 people please. We don’t want the Social Distancing Police knocking on anyone’s door!

Looking Ahead

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!