The Church of the Covenant
Sunday, March 29, 2020
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Service of Worship
for the Lord’s Day

The Cragin Peal

The McGaffin Carillon
George Leggiero, Carillonneur
Versets for Carillon on Jesu Meine Freude
John R. Knox
Performed by J. Samuel Hammond on the Duke University Carillon

Prelude
Passacaglia in d minor, BuxWV 161
Dieterich Buxtehude

Welcome & Announcements
Rev. Mark A. Medina

Joys and Concerns

Celebration of Community
All are invited to light a candle for the duration of the service as a symbol of our community of faith.

Call to Worship
Thus says the Lord:
I will put my breath within you, and you shall live.
In gratitude, we praise the Giver of Life.
Jesus says: I am the resurrection and the life.
In gratitude, we praise the Source of our Being.
We gather to worship the One who frees us from the grave and stirs dry bones to life.
Spirit, come and enliven our worship!
Let us worship the God of life.

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.
Today’s service features Buxtehude’s cantata setting of the chorale Jesu, meine Freude (Jesus, my Joy), scored for two sopranos, bass, two violins, and basso continuo (a bass instrument along with keyboard harmonization). The hymn first appeared in the hymnal Praxis pietatis melica in 1653, its text written by Johann Franck and melody by Johann Crüger. The rhapsodic poetry depicts a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus, one that calms fear, shelters from the storm, coquers the “old dragon,” comforts in death and sorrow, and elicits rapturous joy.

The prelude features Buxtehude’s Passacaglia in d minor. The work is proportionally divided into four contrasting sections each with 7 repetitions of the theme, perhaps a metaphorical representation of the seasons of the year or the phases of life.

In 1668, Dieterich Buxtehude assumed the position of music director (Werkmeister) in the Marienkirche, Lübeck, Germany, the city’s most important church and largest musical establishment, a position that he would keep until his death in 1707. Nearly 300 musical compositions are attributed to Buxtehude, but very few
Call to Confession

Deacon Lucy Matz, Lay Worship Leader

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess to losing sight of hope. In these difficult times of disappointment, fear, loss, and anger, we’ve sealed up the doors of our heart. Instead of sharing valuable time with our families, neighbors or ourselves, we stew in our grief over the normal day-to-days that have slipped through our fingers overnight. We have shrunken back from the demands of your discipleship in favor of putting our worries and anxieties first. Please help us, Lord. Open us to your Spirit. Renew our faith in your grace to heal our hearts and to offer hope in these dark days. Help us to observe the small moments and joyful mindsets where we can follow in your footsteps of truth and tolerance. Please take our best efforts and transform them into a beacon of light that shouts praises of restoration for all of your people. Forgive us as we try to begin each new day with encouraged efforts to be better servants of your Word, and to start anew every morning you bless us with. With full hearts of better days to come, please join me in silence as we 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

CHRISTE SANCTORUM

Jesus, we praise you, now the night is over;
Active and watchful, stand we all before you; Singing, we offer prayer and meditation, Thus we adore you.
Anthem

Cantata, Jesu, meine Freude, BuxWV 60

Dieterich Buxtehude

Part I

I. Instrumental Sonata

II. Chorale

Jesu, meine Freude, Meines Herzens Weide,
Jesus, my joy, pasture of my heart,
Jesu, meine Zier, Ach wie lang, ach lange
Jesus, my adornment, ah how long, how long
Ist dem Herzen bange Und verlangt nach dir!
Is my heart filled with anxiety and longing for you!
Gottes Lamm, mein Bräutigam, Außer dir soll mir auf Erden
Lamb of God, my bridegroom, apart from you on the earth
Nichts sonst Liebers werden.
There is nothing dearer to me.

III. Soprano solo

Unter deinem Schirmen Bin ich vor den Stürmen
Beneath your protection, I am free from the attacks
Aller Feinde frei. Laß den Satan wittern,
Of all my enemies. Let Satan track me down,
Laß den Feind erbittern, Mir steht Jesus bei.
Let my enemy be exasperated – Jesus stands by me.
Ob es itzt gleich kracht und blitzt,
Even if there is thunder and lightning,
Ob gleich Sünd und Hölle schrecken:
Even if sin and hell spread terror:
Jesus will mich decken.
Jesus will protect me.

Time for Young Disciples

Deacon John Marsh

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

Please pray for God’s word to speak to you.

Old Testament Lesson
Pew Bible p.806 NRSV
Ezekiel 37:1-14

This is the word of the Lord. 

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson
Pew Bible p.105 NRSV
John 11:17-37

This is the word of the Lord. 

Thanks be to God.

Sermon
Hope and Life Among the Grieving
Rev. Mark A. Medina

Time for Quiet Reflection

Affirmation of Faith
A Brief Statement of Faith, 10.2)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.
Hymn 400

When We Are Living

Stanza 1 trans. Elise S. Eslinger, 1983
Stanza 2-4, Roberto Escamilla, 1983;
trans. George Lockwood, 1987

Spanish melody

D A A7 D

1. Pues si vi-vi-mos pa-ra Él vi-vi-mos
2. En es-ta vi-da, fru-tos he-mos de dar
3. En la tris-te-za y en el do-lo-r,
4. En es-te mun-do, he-mos de en-con-trar

Y si mo-ri-mos pa-ra Él mo-ri-mos.
Las o-bras bu-e-nas son pa-ra go-fre-dar.
En la be-lle-za y en el a-mor,
Gen-te que llo-ra y sin con-so-lar.

And when we're dy-ing, it is in the Lord.
Good works of ser-vice are for of-fer-ing.
When sens-ing beau-ty or in love's em-brace,
Those who are cry-ing with no peace of mind,

Sea que vi-va-mos o que mu-ra-mos,
Ya sea que de-mos o que re-ci-ba-mos
Sea que su-fra-mos o que go-ce-mos
Sea que a-yu-de-mos o que a-li-men-te-mos

Both in our liv-ing and in our dy-ing,
When we are giv-ing, or when re-ceiv-ing,
Wheth-er we suf-fer, or sing re-joice-ing,
But when we help them, or when we feed them,

Refrain

Bm7 Em A7 D

So-mos del Se-nor, so-mos del Se-nor.
We be-long to God. we be-long to God.
Prayers

Lord, let our minds be set on the Spirit so that we might know peace. Set our minds on the Spirit so that we might be fully present to the enfleshed needs within and around us. Set our minds on the Spirit so that we might remember all that Jesus taught us. Set our minds on the Spirit so that we might be given the right words to say in this trying time on earth.

Lord, hear us when we send word to you that our brothers and our sisters are ill. Come quickly to bring comfort and healing and, yes Lord resurrection. Lord, do not delay because we know if you are here we can endure. We believe you are the Messiah, the one who brings life abundant and grants life eternal. Do not delay, but hurry and bring your glory, full of grace and truth.

Lord, we are bold to call out to you for the sake of God’s beloved world. We lift up to you and ask mercy for those who do not think they can endure another moment of grief or loss or pain. We cry out for divine discernment for our leaders seeking to stem the scourge of this pandemic. We run to you, Lord, and fall at your feet on behalf of those too sick or too weak or too afraid to cry out for themselves.

Lord, we hear you weeping with us. We know you, too, love those we love. We thank you for hearing our pleas for help and coming to our aid. We are grateful for your compassion and your care, for the gift of family and community, for the beauty of nature and the glimpses of Easter even deep in the season of Lent. Call us forth from the tombs in which we’ve too long been trapped, unbind us and set us free so that others will see and come to believe. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who taught us to say when we pray,

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

Cantata, Jesu, meine Freude, BuxWV 60

Part II

III. Bass solo

Trotz dem alten Drachen, Trotz des Todes Rachen,
I defy the old dragon, I defy the jaws of death,
Trotz der Furcht darzu! Tobe, Welt, und springe,
I defy fear as well! Rage, World, and spring to attack:
Ich steh hier und singe In gar sichrer Ruh.
I stand here and sing in secure peace.
Gottes Macht hält mich in acht; Erd und Abgrund muss verstummen,
God’s might takes care of me; earth and abyss must fall silent,
Ob sie noch so brummen.
However much they rumble on.

IV. Trio

Weg mit allen Schätzen! Du bist mein Ergötzen,
Away with all treasures! You are my delight,
Jesu, meine Lust! Weg ihr eitlen Ehren,
Jesus, my joy! Away with empty honors,
Ich mag euch nicht hören, Bleibt mir unbewusst!
I’m not going to listen to you, remain unknown to me!
Elend, Not, Kreuz, Schmach und Tod Soll mich,
Misery, distress, affliction, disgrace and death,
Ob ich viel muss leiden, Nicht von Jesu scheiden.
Even if I must endure much suffering, Will not separate me from Jesus.

V. Soprano solo

Gute Nacht, o Wesen, Das die Welt erlesen,
Good night, existence chosen by the world,
Mir gefällst du nicht. Gute Nacht, ihr Sünden,
You do not please me. Good night, you sins,
Bleibet weit dahinten, Kommt nicht mehr ans Licht!
Stay far behind me. Come no more to the light!
Gute Nacht, du Stolz und Pracht! Dir sei ganz, du Lasterleben,
Good night, pride and splendor, once and for all, sinful existence,
Gute Nacht gegeben.
I bid you good nigh..
VI. Chorale

Weicht, ihr Trauergeister, Denn mein Freudenmeister,
Go away, mournful spirits, for my joyful master,
Jesus, tritt herein. Denen, die Gott lieben,
Jesus, now enters in. For those who love God,
Muß auch ihr Betrüben Lauter Zucker sein.
Even their afflictions become pure sweetness.
Duld ich schon hier Spott und Hohn,
Even if here I must endure shame and disgrace,
Dennoch bleibst du auch im Leide, Jesu, meine Freude.
Even in suffering you remain, Jesus, my joy.

Offertory Response       How Blessed Are You       Taizé Chant

Prayer of Dedication
Benediction

Friends, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
May the Lord bless and keep us. May the Lord be kind and gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. Amen.

Choral Postlude

Stay With Me

Chancel Choir
Jacques Berthier

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.

Carillon Postlude

Rain

Rob Scallon

Performed by Joey Brink on the Rockefeller Carillon at the University of Chicago

Please extinguish the candle.
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.

Travel Updates!
We are relieved and grateful to announce that David and Pat Owen-Keltner have arrived safely back home from their trip to England. We are also happy to announce that Gretchen Drushel and Collin Denbow have returned home safely from their assignments with the Peace Corp. Finally, we’re happy that Kayla Clint has returned home safely from her trip to India. Welcome home!

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. The decision has been made to place any money received for the lilies into the flower fund.

This Week at Covenant (March 30– April 5)

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.
Family Promise Needs Our Help.
Lisa Fritz, the Volunteer and Donor Relations Coordinator for Family Promise wrote a letter indicating how people can provide support, during these difficult times, for the 20 families housed at Family Promise at E. 150th St. and Kinsman Ave. She indicated that the items of greatest need are as follows: hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray cleaner, paper towels, toilet paper, disposable vinyl or latex gloves non-perishable food items and diapers (size 4, 5, 6 only).
Family Promise is a Mission Partner of the Church of the Covenant. For additional information contact Bob Ault at 440-565-7710.

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.

Ministry of Faith Formation Shares Remote Worship and Fellowship Resources
AND Extends a Helping Hand to Access Technology for our Covenant Community
MoFF has three ideas for our Covenant Community as we worship and engage in fellowship remotely:
1. Consider lighting a candle as you begin worshipping with our Interactive Bulletins. The light is another way we can remind ourselves that we are united together through faith.
2. Visit THIS LINK to learn about resources from the PCUSA for remote and online devotional materials, bible study materials, and ideas for faith fellowship gatherings.
3. Consider gathering remotely through group telephone calls or videoconferencing applications as a way to stay-in-touch. Covenant 8 groups could easily gather using a little bit of technology, and enjoy hearing or seeing other members of our Covenant Community!
If you need some help accessing technology to engage with one another, please send us an email at faithformation@coveweb.org. MoFF members are ready and willing to help with technology access or challenges so that we can still fellowship from the comfort of our homes.

Coronavirus NOT Stopping Carillonneurs!
Despite the church being closed, George Leggiiero 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!
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.
REMEMBER, no groups larger than 10 people. Email your photos to dmatz@covenantweb.org

Covenant Members, We Need Your Help!
Do you have photos from 2017, 2018 or 2019 pertaining to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and/or Easter Services? If you do, and especially if they are in the sanctuary, please send them to Dennis Matz at dmatz@covenantweb.org. We are seeking to incorporate these pictures into our Holy Week services. We would like to have these photos before the end of March. Thank you.