* Please stand as you are able

The Cragin Peal

The McGaffin Carillon

George Leggiero, Carillonneur

Organ Prelude

Passacaglia

Jonathan Moyer

Welcome & Announcements

Reverend Mark A. Medina

Joys and Concerns

* Celebration of Community

Introit

J.W. Keckley, tenor

Felix Mendelssohn

Be Thou Faithful Unto Death from St. Paul

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Be not afraid, my help is nigh.

* Call to Worship

In days of old God called Abraham and Sarah:

Come—I am with you; step out in faith.

God speaks still, claiming people of every land and race:

Come—I will bless you, that you may bless others.

Heirs of the covenant, let us continue the journey:

Come—let us worship the Lord!

* Hymn 488

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

* Call to Confession

Trustee Harriet Wadsworth, Lay Worship Leader

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.
* Corporate Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, whose goodness extends even beyond our imagining, we confess to smallness of faith. We shrink back from the demands of your discipleship because we fear our needs won’t be met. You offer us the liberation of self-giving servanthood, and we worry more about acquiring and accumulating things for ourselves. Forgive us for the ways our lack of faith hinders your work through us. Open us to your Spirit. Renew us by the power of your love to find our 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! If we confess our sin, God is faithful and just, forgiving and transforming our lives. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* Corporate Response

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper; thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil, He shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore. Amen.

**Music Notes**

This week’s anthem by the “Dean of American church music,” Leo Sowerby (1895-1968), features Chancel Choir soloist, Ashlyn Herd. Using the text of Psalm 121, Sowerby colored the harmonic progressions in this piece with chords inspired by the blues.

Our offertory is an arrangement of an American folk hymn. The text is particularly poignant for Lent, as we consider the role Christ plays in our everyday lives.

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.

Today’s prelude features a Passacaglia composed by Jonathan Moyer in 2019 and premiered at Covenant this past October. Following 13 variations on the theme, the rhythm shifts to a faster, yet proportional tempo for 6 more variations, then climaxes in a final statement of the theme.
Time for Young Disciples
Nancy Acree

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.571 NRSV Psalm 121:1-8
This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson Pew Bible p.93-94 NRSV John 3:1-17
This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Sermon The Pilgrimage of the Faithful Rev. Mark A. Medina

Time for Quiet Reflection

* Affirmation of Faith Confession of Belhar

We believe
• that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;
• that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;
• that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;
• that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity...Amen.

OUR LAY WORSHIP LEADER is Harriet Wadsworth.
Harriet has been a Covenant member since 1984. She has served on a great many committees, boards and task forces; currently she is a Trustee and the Trustee representative on the 2020 Nominating Committee; she also serves as chair of the Organ Committee. Harriet is married to John Orlock, Professor of English at CWRU; their daughters, Julia and Margaret Wadsworth, grew up at the church. Professionally she works with Covenant member, Chip Bromley, on fair housing, fair lending and community development issues as staff for the Ohio Fair Lending and Vital Communities Coalition, the Shaker Square Alliance, and the E. 130th Street Working Group.

CONTACT LEADERSHIP
Faithformation@covenantweb.org
Finance@covenantweb.org
Service@covenantweb.org
Personnel@covenantweb.org
Deacons@covenantweb.org
Trustees@covenantweb.org
Building@covenantweb.org
Music@covenantweb.org
*Hymn 87 The Glory of These Forty Days ERHALT UNS, HERR

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.

Offertory
My Song in the Night
arr. Paul Christiansen

O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night, 
come to us with Thy tender love, my soul’s delight.
Unto Thee, O Lord, in affliction I call, 
my comfort by day and my song in the night.

O why should I wander, an alien from Thee, 
or cry in the desert Thy face to see.
My comfort and joy, my soul’s delight, 
O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night.

*Offertory Response How Blessed Are You Taizé Chant

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…

MINISTERS
All the members of the church
Rev. Mark A. Medina,
Transitional Interim Pastor,
Head of Staff
Kevin Lowry,
Campus Chaplain & Dir.
of Student Ministries
Matthew Garrett, PhD,
Music Director
Jonathan Moyer, DMA
Organist, Assoc. Music Dir.
Michael Peters, PhD,
Assoc. Music Director
Kaori Hongo, DMA
Coordinator of Children &
Youth Ministry, Handbell &
Children’s Choir Director
Ken Wendt, DMA,
Audio Visual Services Mgr.
Jennifer Conner, DMA,
Music Librarian
George Leggiero, MA
Carillonneur

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 
11:00 Fellowship and Coffee 
Reception Room 
11:15 Covenant Ministry 
Mini-Fair, Narthex 
11:30 Young+ Adult Forum 
Dowd Commons 
12:30 Science of Spirituality 
Sonia Golden Room 
1:30 First Brazilian Church 
Yost Chapel
* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 485

**To God Be the Glory**

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY**

* Benediction

Choral Postlude

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

Improvisation on Wayfaring Stranger

Thank you for being mindful of those who wish to stay and listen to the postlude.

**SESSION**

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

CLASS OF 2021: Susan Klein, Lucy Matz, Ryan Szafraniec, Erin Tomko, Kate Williams

CLASS OF 2022: Ronnie Bromelmeier, John Marsh, Nancy Matz, Sue Prince, Lyn Cooper Tomaszewski, Nick Tomko

**TRUSTEES**

CLASS OF 2020: Jim Prince Harriet Wadsworth

CLASS OF 2021: Patty Fowler, Nancy Smekal

CLASS OF 2022: Dennis Matz Ann Williams

**OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY**

Martha Goble, President Keith Kallay, Treasurer
Jim Mate, Secretary

The Church of the Covenant
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Cleveland, Ohio 44106
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Covenant@CovenantWeb.org
**Ushering Today** are Patty and Clint Fowler, Nancy Smekal, and Ann Williams.

**Greeters Today** are Orene Anthony and Beth Holbein.

**Our Sunday School Teacher** is Nancy Acree.

**Join Us for Fellowship and Coffee** right after worship in our Reception Room. Exit through the door to the right of the lectern and follow the hallway up the steps. Please see an usher if you need assistance.

**The Flowers In The Chancel Urn** are given by Catherine Miller in celebration of the birthdates of her sister, Margaret C. Gould, and her mother, Bee Carpenter, both born on March 6th.

**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, 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.

**Kevin Lowry** is recovering from emergency surgery and is resting comfortably at home. He will be away for the next several weeks.

**The Deacons have purchased** 6 cards to send to Kevin Lowry to support him through his recovery. The cards will be in the church library on Sunday March 8th to sign. The Deacons will also be providing his family with gift cards/pre-paid debit cards to help supplement their meals. If you want to contribute financially, please give your donation, made out to Church of the Covenant, to Nick Tomko.

**This Week at Covenant (March 9– March 14)**

**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 am;
- Tuesday Noon Organ Plus Concert, Sanctuary, 12 pm;
- Bereavement Group, Herrick Room, 6 pm.

**Wednesday:** Ohio Fair Lending Coalition, Beckwith Hall, 12 pm;

- 12 Steps to Freedom, Beckwith Hall, 5:30 pm;
- Deacons Meeting, Dowd Commons, 6:30 pm.

**Thursday:** Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Handbell Rehearsal Room, 6:20 pm;

- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room/Yost Chapel, 7:30 pm.

**Friday:** Lunchtime Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 12:15 pm;

**Saturday:** No scheduled activities.
Matthew Garrett and Michael Peters will be away March 9–16.

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.

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; 1,289 people in Cuyahoga County have been killed by guns. Since last month, 9 more individuals have died by gun violence in Cuyahoga County. The names of those at least 18 years of age are: Jane L. Guilford, Dorian Johnson, Wayne C. Cottrell, Stephen P. Gurley, Kenneth J. Brown, Mary D. Griffin, Matthew Anthony Mahan, and Richard N. Luciano. Six of those who died were by suicide including a thirteen year old who took his own life. Go to GodBeforeGuns.org to see how to become engaged.

Food Collection | Next Sunday March 15 (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, variety pack cereal, and spam or canned chicken.

Sanctuary Peace Cranes

In the Japanese tradition, these cranes signify “happiness,” as symbols of peace, hope and healing in challenging times. Please take a crane from the red basket in the narthex. This is a gift from the staff to you. Please share the peace with others.

Young+Adult Forums Return This Week!

Younger, Middle-aged, and Wise(r) Adults are all welcome to gather downstairs in Dowd Commons after reception for our education forum this week. Learn about the work of the national Presbyterian Hunger Program and our Presbytery’s Hunger Action Network. Our guest speaker, Lauren VanDale, is a staff member from the Presbytery of the Western Reserve.

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

Saturday Tutoring Will Be On Break The Next Two Weeks!

Saturday Tutoring will continue on March 21, 28 & April 4, in the Lower Level at 10 am.

Thank You!

Our February Black History Month worship services, guest preachers, forums and Soul Food Lunch were inspiring educational and delicious. We’d like to thank the members of the Committee: Nancy Acree, Renee Boykin, Shirley Thompson and Matthew Garrett for organizing the events. Also, thanks to Kevin Lowry, Barb Clint, Tom Denbow and Michael Peters for all their help in the kitchen.
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

Children Are Welcome Here
We invite children to join us up front in the Worship Center to participate in various activities during the service. Following Time for Young Disciples, children in Kindergarten through 6th grade will be accompanied by a Covenant member 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.

Looking Ahead

Tuesday Noon Organ Plus Concerts
Join us Tuesday, March 10th at 12:00 pm, for our Organ Plus Concert, with Ryan Chan, organist. The coming season of concerts will extend through June 9, 2020, with occasional "Plus" concerts featuring other instruments and vocalists. Look for more details soon.

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 (cjajisi@gmail.com). We appreciate your help!