The Church of the Covenant
Sunday, April 26, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter
Service of Worship
for the Lord’s Day

The Cragin Peal

The McGaffin Carillon
Easter Dawning for Carillon (1992)
George Leggiero, Carillonneur
George Crumb
Performed by Don Cook

Prelude
Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, BWV 654
Johann Sebastian Bach
Recorded in the German Reform Church, Budapest, Jan. 2020

Welcome & Announcements
Elder Barb Clint
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.

Introit
Covenant Choir
Nanette Canfield, soloist
arr. Jonathan Moyer

Morning Has Broken
Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird,
Praise for the singing, Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

Mine is the sunlight, Mine is the morning
Born of the One Light Eden saw play;
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day.

Image from wikicommons: Paradise by Marc Chagall (1887-1985)

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.
Call to Worship

Deacons Erin & Nick Tomko
Psalm 57:5, 7-11 (NIV)

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.

My heart, O God, is steadfast,
my heart is steadfast;
I will sing and make music

Awake, my soul!
Awake, harp and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn.
I will praise, Lord, among the nations;
I will sing of you among the peoples.

For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.
Let us joyfully worship God!

Hymn 267
All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

Music Notes

Music for this service reflects aspects of beauty as an extension of divine love.

The organ prelude by J.S. Bach is based on a hymn text that depicts the “adorning” of a bride, typifying the relationship between Christians and Jesus. Bach’s score sings in eloquent and resplendent tones.

Both the introit and opening hymn remind us of simple beauty found in nature.

The central musical work of the service is a setting of words from William Shakespeare’s play The Merchant of Venice by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Composed in 1938, the work is scored for 16 solo singers and orchestra and has become a “credo” for many musicians. From the fifth act of the play, the text is a richly symbolic dialogue concerning the relationship of the natural world and music.

Composed in 1817, the offertory An die Musik by Franz Schubert is a simple yet profound expression of thanks to blessed Art (“du holde Kunst”).

The postlude returns us to the contrapuntal perfection of J.S. Bach in a majestic fugue in C major, BWV 545 representative of the divine order of the cosmos.
Call to Confession

Deacon John Marsh, Lay Worship Leader

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Loving God,
Like the lilies in the field, we depend on you for all we need.
But when you offer it we do not rejoice. Instead, we toil and spin, toil and spin. We chase the dispensable and disposable.
Greed drives us, not gratitude. We’d rather make money than music. Forgive us when we fail to seek joy in the life you so abundantly provide, and when we cannot share with it with others. Guide us to a simple and enduring faith that furnishes what we need and frees us to accept it joyfully. We ask your forgiveness as we silently confess our sins.

Silent Confession of Sin

Declaration of Forgiveness

The Apostle Paul declares, “I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of spirits or superhuman powers, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths- nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Friends, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Gloria Patri

Hymn 579

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

Time for Young Disciples

Trustee Nancy Smekal

Parting Response

Hymn 535
Christopher Moyer, soloist

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.

OUR LAY WORSHIP LEADER is Deacon John Marsh.
John joined the Church of the Covenant in 1993. He participated in the first Education for Ministry class soon after and enjoyed learning about theology and church history. He currently sings with the choir and serves on Deacons and the Personnel Committee.

CONTACT

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Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson  Genesis 1-2 (selected verses)
This is the word of the Lord.  Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson  Luke 12:22-34
This is the word of the Lord.  Thanks be to God

Sermon  The Color of Love  Jonathan Moyer
O Goodness infinite, Goodness immense!
That all this good of evil shall produce, and evil turn to good;
More wonderful than that which by creation first brought forth
Light out of darkness!

Paradise Lost by John Milton, 1667

Time for Quiet Reflection

Anthem  London Philharmonic Orchestra, Sr. Adrian Boult
Serenade to Music  Ralph Vaughan Williams
Text from The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!
Here will we sit and let the sounds of music
Creep in our ears: soft stillness and the night
Become the touches of sweet harmony.

Look how the floor of heaven
Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold:
There’s not the smallest orb that thou behold’st
But in his motion like an angel sings,
Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubins;
Such harmony is in immortal souls;
But whilst this muddy vesture of decay
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.

Come, ho! and wake Diana with a hymn!
With sweetest touches pierce your mistress’ ear,
And draw her home with music.
I am never merry when I hear sweet music.
The reason is, your spirits are attentive –
The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not mov’d with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils;
The motions of his spirit are dull as night
And his affections dark as Erebus: (Greek personification of darkness)
Let no such man be trusted.

Music! hark! It is your music of the house.
Methinks it sounds much sweeter than by day.
Silence bestows that virtue on it
How many things by season season’d are
To their right praise and true perfection!

Peace, ho! the moon sleeps with Endymion
And would not be awak’d.
Soft stillness and the night
Become the touches of sweet harmony.

Prayers of the People
Matthew Garrett, Michael Peters,
& The Vaughn Family (Matthew’s Sister, Brother-in-Law, & Nephews)

Thank you for the music all around us.
Each morning we hear it from the moment we open our ears;
the low notes of wind around the eaves,
the whoosh of water as it comes from the tap,
the glug glug as it drains,
the throaty whistle of the boiling kettle,
the metallic tap of the spoon against the cup,
the jazz percussion of our feet on the steps.
The sounds of our day,
so familiar we hardly pay attention.

Thank you for the ability to hear.
Thank you for the sounds of life:
the chatter of the squirrel,
the deep purr of a cat,
the sharp calls of a blue jay,
the sound of someone we love laughing.
Give us wisdom to enter this day with good sounds,
tones and pitches and words that affirm, encourage, cherish,
our sounds affecting the world in a positive way.
We pray for all who sing a sad song today;
the grieving, the lonely, the lost.
We pray especially for those who have lost their voice and feel silenced or oppressed. There are many singing freedom songs around our world, and so today we pray for the safety of these singers. Give their song the strength to convince and convert, the power to ward off war. There are too many war songs, we don’t want to hear another one.

Thank you for your songs, love songs, which we are invited to sing. Thank you for all the parts you’ve made for the song; soprano, alto, tenor, bass. Thank you for the children’s part and the senior’s part, thank you for the youth part and the part for middle agers, thank you for the crazy baby descant that we all love to hear.

You are the Great Composer. We long to be composed each day in your image, singing your elegant score truly, clearly, following your rhythm by heart, finding our voice in your beautiful world. Hearing you in the music of life.

O God, we come to you in one voice to say the prayer Which our Lord taught us. 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_

All are invited to sing.
Invitation to Offering

Kaori Hongo, Coordinator of
Children & Youth Ministry

Offertory

Timothy Lefebvre, baritone
Jonathan Moyer, organ

Recorded at a service in the church of St. Nicolai, Leipzig, Jan. 2020

An die Musik

Franz Schubert

Du holde Kunst, in wieviel grauen Stunden,
O blessed art, how often in dark hours,
Wo mich des Lebens wilder Kreis umstrickt,
When the savage ring of life tightens round me,
Hast du mein Herz zu warmer Lieb’ entzunden,
Have you kindled warm love in my heart,
Hast mich in eine bessere Welt entrückt!
Have transported me to a better world!

Oft hat ein Seufzer, deiner Harf’ entfloßen,
Often a sigh has escaped from your harp,
Ein süßer, heiliger Akkord von dir,
A sweet, sacred harmony of yours
Den Himmel bessrer Zeiten mir erschloßen,
Has opened up the heavens to better times for me,
Du holde Kunst, ich danke dir dafür,
O blessed art, I thank you for that!
Du holde Kunst, ich danke dir!
O blessed art, I thank you!

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

**or Creator

Prayer of Dedication
1. When in our music God is glorified, And adoration leaves no room for pride.
2. How often, making music, we have found A new dimension in the world of sound.
3. So has the church, in liturgy and song, As worship love, through centuries of wrong.
4. Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoicing who have a voice to raise! And may God though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!
   moved us to a more profound Alleluia!
   to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!
   give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

Final ending

Alleluia! Amen.
Benediction
Jonathan Moyer

Postlude
Johann Sebastian Bach

Fugue in C major, BWV 545
Jonathan Moyer, organ

Carillon Postlude
Geert D’hollander

A Fast Wild Ride
Performed by Alex Johnson University of Chicago Carillon

Please extinguish the candle.

An Update From Session
Session voted to extend the closing of the church UNTIL MAY 31st.
This is in response to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic that’s affecting our country.

We Keep in our Prayers: Thelma Everhart, Theodis Fipps, David Keltner, Pat Owen-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.

Annual Meeting Rescheduled:
Session has voted to postpone the congregational annual meeting from its normal date of the first Sunday in May to May 17th, and to conduct the meeting via Zoom if social distancing guidelines continue to warrant it. Please check future bulletins and e-news for more information on how to participate.

This Week at Covenant (April 27 – May 2)

Monday: Ministry of Faith Formation by Zoom, 7 pm. Church Building is Closed.
Tuesday: Staff Meeting, by Zoom, 9:30 am. Church Building is Closed.
Wednesday: Personnel Committee Meeting, by Zoom, 5 pm. 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.
Food Pantry Update From Ministry of Service
Session has approved the limited operation of the church’s food pantry during the building closure. However, we cannot accept food donations at this time. You can support this important ministry by making a monetary donation to the COCT hunger fund. Your generosity will help those in our neighborhood who are hungry and need help during this pandemic. Thank you!

Ways to Help Feed The Hungry

From the Ministry of Service and the Hunger Action Network: Ways to Address Hunger.... from a distance.

1. Consider providing financial support for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, Feeding America.

2. Make a Donation to the Church of the Covenant Hunger Fund. https://onrealm.org/covenantweb/-/give/now

3. Join the Ministry of Service OFFERING OF LETTERS on May 17, 2020. Presbyterians have partnered for years with Bread for the World, and your voice is needed now more than ever. Visit Bread’s page about Hunger and Coronavirus to see how you can support those most drastically affected by our current situation.

4. Embrace Meatless Mondays cutting back on our consumption of meat is good for us and good for the planet! There are abundant resources on going meatless, but may we suggest starting with the Meatless Monday website, and seeing where that takes you.

5. Donate to Centsability Offering: We may not be gathering weekly for coffee fellowship after church, or any of our usual meetings, but that doesn’t mean that we can’t collect funds for the Centsability/2 Cents-a-Meal offering. These small amounts of change become large donations when we all contribute! The Presbytery uses our Centsability Offering funds to support three groups doing important hunger justice work: City Rising Farm, an urban garden in the Hough neighborhood of Cleveland; Bread for the World; and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in fighting human trafficking and gender-based violence at work.

Family Promise Needs Our Help.
In this time of such uncertainty, Family Promise Continues to Need Our Help. Their Volunteer and Donor Relations Coordinator Lisa Fritz recently updated Bob Ault on their current needs: paper towels, non-perishable pantry food items, frozen foods, Pull-Ups (size 2T/3T), diapers (size 4, 5, 6), Ziplock bags (gallon and quart), new bed pillows, and women’s body wash. If you would like to donate any of the above items, please call Bob Ault (440-565-7710) who will arrange to pick up your donations from your home, physical contact-free, and deliver them to Family Promise. If you would rather make a cash donation, you can either send a check made out to Family Promise of Greater Cleveland and mailed to: 3470 East 152nd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44120 or donate online via the following link: https://familypromisecle.org/Donate

The Ministry of Service thanks you for your continued generosity.

Do You Know An Upcoming Graduate?
Send us a photo (in cap and gown if possible) of any upcoming High School or College graduate you know and we’ll honor them next month. Email photos to: dmatz@covenantweb.org
Coronavirus NOT Stopping Carillonneurs!
Greater Cleveland carillonneurs, including our own George Leggiero, continue to provide free music as a solace to a coronavirus-worn public. The outdoor nature of carillon listening supports Governor DeWine’s plea for social distancing as well as his urging to get outside for our mental health.

Here is a link to WCPN ideastream’s stories about the “coalition of carillonneurs” (and stories from 2014 and 2017): https://www.ideastream.org/news/northeast-ohio-carillons-provide-musical-relief-during-pandemic. The Friday concerts are sponsored by the Friends of the McGaffin Carillon in University Circle.

Here are additional details:

**Church of the Covenant**
George Leggiero & guests  
Fridays 12:15–12:45 p.m.  
Sundays 10–10:15 a.m.

**Church of the Saviour** (2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Hts.)  
Sheryl Modlin  
Saturdays 10–10:20 a.m.  
Sundays 11:30–11:50 a.m.

**St. Paul’s Episcopal Church** (2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Hts.)  
David Osburn  
Sundays 11–11:30 a.m.

**St. Christopher By-the-River** (7601 Old Mill Road, Gates Mills)  
Becky Everett  
Sundays 10:15–10:35 a.m.

**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

**Saturday Tutoring Offering Online Help.**
As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic forced an early closure for The Saturday Tutoring Program’s 2019-2020 school year. Deciding to close was not an easy decision but a necessary one. Although we were originally scheduled to end the school year on April 4, we have remained committed to our students and their families. Many school districts have designed distance learning plans for students, but this new way of learning is presenting new challenges for students and their families.

That is why we have made the decision to offer free online tutoring to students. However, this new endeavor will not be a success without you.

If you are interested in providing online tutoring, we ask that you complete a registration form that can be found using the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdl8Lt8P0XcmWEPfoXtwnHECjtBKUJ4kDD9TzOPA8wyXuLasg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Online tutoring will begin on Monday, April 20, 2020. Similar to Saturday mornings, once you complete a registration form, we will pair you with a student based on your preferences. Once you are paired, you will receive an email which will include the date and time of your session (no
more than 1 hour), the student’s name/needed subject area and a link to the meeting room. All you have to do is show up at your scheduled time! Sessions will accessible by smartphone but a computer/tablet is recommended.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to email us at saturdaytutoring@gmail.com. Thank you for helping our students reach their fullest potential!

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@covenantweb.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.

Bread For The World Letters To Congress
This year’s focus is on helping children escape malnutrition and get the nutrition they need. Congress should increase funding for the Summer EBT program so more children have access to food during the summer months-the hungriest time of the year for children. Realizing that most congregations are not gathering for worship on Sundays, BFW has set up a way that you can stay at home and write a letter to Congress On Line. The link (shown below) is for use for all Ohio OL writing. This link allows BFW to track how many people write letters and is a verified system that Congress views as valid. The link will send an email directly to someone’s member of Congress and both Senators. https://bit.ly/2V2oStw

Thank you to Laura VanDale the Hunger Action Advocate for Presbytery for the on line information.
Rev. Medina

Rev. Medina made a request (which Session has approved) to return to his home in Chambersburg, PA during this time of “shelter at home.” This puts him near his primary care doctor. He is contributing all work remotely and staying in close touch with Ruling Elders, Deacons, staff and members of the church. You are welcome to contact him at mmedina@covenantweb.org or his cellphone at 269-303-2205. Thank you.