

The
**Church of the
Covenant**

Sunday, July 12, 2020

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Service of Worship
for the Lord's Day



The Parable of the Sower

The Cragin Peal

Carillon Prelude

We gather together

David Christensen University of California, Riverside

Prelude

Jonathan Moyer, organ

CWRU Department of Historic Performance Practice

Organ Concerto No. 1, Op. 4 in G minor

George Frideric Handel

II. Allegro

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

Ministry Matters

The Lord is the sower of the seeds of love and redemption.

**But we have not always been ready
to receive these seeds.**

Today we hear again the scriptures that remind us of the
awesome generosity of God.

**Help us be good soil, O God, prepared
to receive your love and to grow in that love.**

This is the day to worship an ever loving God.

Let worship together. Amen.

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.

Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; alt.
Trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864; alt.

Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566
Harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906

1. Sing praise to God, who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre -
2. What God's al-might - y power hath made, God's gra - cious mer - cy
3. The Lord is nev - er far a - way, But through all grief dis -
4. Thus all my glad - some way a - long, I sing a - loud Thy

a - tion, The God of power, the God of love, The God of
keep - eth; By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade God's watch - ful
tress - ing, An ev - er pres - ent help and stay, Our peace, and
prais - es That all may hear the grate - ful song My voice un -

our sal - va - tion; With heal - ing balm my soul is filled, And
eye ne'er sleep - eth; With - in the king - dom of God's might, Lo!
joy, and bless - ing; As with a moth - er's ten - der hand, God
wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, Both

ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stilled:
all is just and all is right:
gent - ly leads the cho - sen band: To God all praise and glo - ry!
soul and bod - y take your part:

*May be sung in unison

This week, our anthem and offertory selections feature the St. Olaf Handbell Choir, under the direction of Jill Mahr. You'll likely see some familiar instruments in these video clips, as this ensemble uses both handbells and tone bars, similar to those we play at Covenant. This summer, the music staff are completing a two-year refurbishing and repair of our Whitechapel handbells. Our instruments were originally manufactured in London, following foundry traditions that date back to the 1740s.

The prelude and postlude are two movements from the first organ concerto of George Frederic Handel. Handel performed his concertos on small "chamber organs" as interludes during his oratorios. This particular concerto was first performed in 1736 during his oratorio *Alexander's Feast*. This performance is a recording from the Case Covenant Collaboration Concert in 2013, as part of the inaugural events surrounding the installation of the Newberry Organ.

Call to Confession

Trustee, Nancy Smekal,
Lay Worship Leader

**OUR LAY WORSHIP
LEADER** is Nancy Smekal.

Nancy and her husband Jim are long time members of the Church of the Covenant. They enjoy worshipping at the Covenant because of its involvement in the life of University Circle as well as its embrace of the larger world and all people.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Unclutter our lives, Lord. We have too much, consume too much, expect too much.

Grant us perspective to see this world through others' eyes rather than just our own.

Grant us compassion where there is need to play our part and not turn aside.

Grant us gratitude for what we have - our daily bread and the gift of life.

Unclutter our lives, Lord, help us to live simply with thankful hearts.

Hear us now as we silently confess our sins.

Silent Confession of Sins

Declaration of Forgiveness

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.**

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**

Anthem

Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals

St. Olaf Handbell Choir
arr. Andrea Handley

Time for Young Disciples

Kaori Hongo, *Coordinator of
Children & Youth Ministry*

TODAY

10:00 Carillon Concert
McGaffin Carillon

11:00 ZOOM Coffee Hour
[Click HERE to join via Zoom](#)

**CHURCH BUILDING
IS CLOSED**

**COVENANT
COMMUNITY IS
ALWAYS OPEN**

Parting Response

Hymn 535

Ivy Goodman and Christopher Sho Moyer

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 of Illumination

New Testament Lesson

Romans 8:1-11

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

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

Sermon *Spreading The Seeds of The Gospel*

Rev. Mark A. Medina

Time for Quiet Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

MINISTERS

All the members of the church
Rev. Mark A. Medina,
Transitional Interim Pastor,
Head of Staff
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

William Kethe, 1560

Attr. Louis Bourgeois (c. 1510-c. 1561)

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with
 2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our aid He
 3. O en - ter then His gates with praise, Ap - proach with joy His
 4. For why? The Lord our God is good, His mer - cy is for -

cheer - ful voice; Him serve with mirth, His praise forth
 did us make; We are His folk, He doth us
 courts un - to; Praise, laud, and bless His name al -
 ev - er sure; His truth at all times firm - ly

tell, Come ye be - fore Him and re - jice.
 feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
 ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
 stood, And shall from age to age en - dure.

SESSION

Deni Horstman,
 Clerk of Session,
 clerk@covenantweb.org

CLASS OF 2021: Barb Clint,
 Theodis Fipps, Dale Goode,
 Chris Langmack,
 Cindy Szafraniec

CLASS OF 2022: Heidi Braun,
 Kathy Farkas, Clint Fowler,
 Matthew Garrett,
 Sybil Marsh, Cathy Miller

CLASS OF 2023: Mary Anne
 Bromelmeier, Jenny Conner,
 Anne Wombwell deConingh
 Susan Dahm, Rod Keen,
 Erica Stubbs

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2021: Lucy Matz,
 Ryan Szafraniec,
 Janet Takeyama,
 Erin Tomko, Kate Williams

CLASS OF 2022: Ronnie
 Bromelmeier, John Marsh,
 Nancy Matz, Sue Prince,
 Nick Tomko, Liz Shriver

CLASS OF 2023: Tom Denbow,
 Joan Drushel, Julie Mailey,
 Nicole Murray, Norma
 Shuskey, Paul Williams

TRUSTEES

CLASS OF 2021: Patty Fowler,
 Nancy Smekal

CLASS OF 2022: Dennis Matz
 Ann Williams

CLASS OF 2023: Jim Prince
 Harriet Wadsworth

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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

Includes ringing of the Prayer Bell for those impacted by gun violence.

For all the blessings of this life,
we give thanks to You, Creator God.
For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers,
who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within.
That Your love, your Word, like a seed,
may grow to produce in us, good fruit.

re: Worship

For those who serve in harms way,
those who live in dangerous places,
those who live in areas of war and strife,
those who live in fear,
those who worry about employment, bills, food,
and struggle just to find dignity in life.
May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.

For those who suffer from any illness or disease—
of mind, body, or spirit.
Heal those who have been infected with Coronavirus.
Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts,
to fullness of health—
health as only you, O God, can bring.
May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love.

For those who have been traumatized or killed by gun violence.
Bring comfort to family and friends.
Embrace those who you have welcomed into your kingdom.
Remember them during this time of the tolling of the bell.
Tolling of the bell.

For those who are dying, and for those who have died.
Send forth your comforting love.
Give solace to those who mourn.
Console those who grieve.
May your grace surround us
like a mantle upon our heads,
a shawl upon our shoulders,
a hand, to hold our hand.

May your love, be like a seed,
taking root and growing strong.

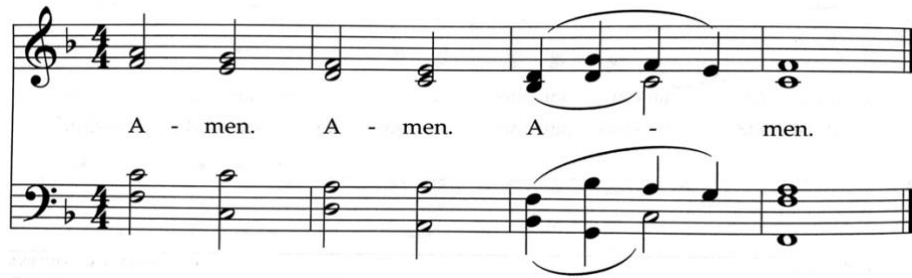
Hear us now, O God, as we join together in the prayer
your Son taught us to say. **Our Father..**

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

Click here to visit the church's online giving page

Offertory

We Gather Together

St. Olaf Handbell Choir

arr. Joel Raney

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

Congregational Favorite

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677

Trans. Church Chorals and Choir Studies, 1850; alt.

Silesian folk melody

In Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,

O Thou of God to earth come down, Thee will I cher - ish,
 Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 And all the twin - kling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, Than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

As you tend the seed that you have planted at home
tend the word in yourself.

**While we watch for the seed to sprout in us,
we meditate on God's Holy Word.**

**We go out in joy and
be led back in peace**

The mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

**We go from here in the joy of God,
secure in God's presence around you
and within you.**

Postlude

*Organ Concerto No. 1, Op. 4 in G minor
III. Andante*

Jonathan Moyer, organ
CWRU Department of Historic Performance Practice
George Frideric Handel

Carillon Postlude

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Edward M. Nasser Washington National Cathedral

Please extinguish the candle.

An Update From Session

With heavy hearts, the Session of our church agreed unanimously to continue the closure of our building for Sunday worship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our building remains open only to mask-wearing essential staff, officers, and service persons. Session will reevaluate this at each monthly meeting.

A Reopening task force has begun exploring possibilities to gather again, in person, at some point in the future. Task force participants include: Erin Tomko, Fred Braun, Barb Clint, Sybil Marsh, and Matthew Garrett.

We Keep in our Prayers: Thelma Everhart, Fritz Haiss, Kitty Jarjisian, David Keltner, Pat Owen-Keltner, Greg Madison, Reathel McWhorter, Susan Moyer (Jonathan's mother), Gene Papp, Carolyn Perry, George Peters (Michael's father), Kim Voss, 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.

Our Prayers are with the family and friends of Stephanie Johnson who's sister Barbara died on July 4th.

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; 1,362 people in Cuyahoga County have been killed by guns. Since last month, 17 more individuals have died by gun violence in Cuyahoga County. The names of those at least 18 years of age are: Brandon Randle, Marvin Marsh, Tevon Lewis, Jaron Taylor, Lavar W. Overton, Devaughn Tyrone Hammett, Antonio R. Lozada, Clinton Denard Alston, Ravin A. Malone, Ernest Mykell Mitchell, Tazhon Earl Greenwood, Jeffery Lamar Phillips, Arianne Lorene Welch, Michael Pempton Jr., Curtis J. Oneal and Miguel C. Alvarez. Five of those who died were by suicide and one was a twelve year old boy. Go to godbeforeguns.org to see how to become engaged.

Covenant After-Worship Coffee Hour, by ZOOM

The Ministry of Faith Formation hosts a virtual coffee hour and fellowship time each week, at 11:00 a.m. [CLICK HERE](#) to join our Coffee Hour this week.

MoFF needs Covenant Community members to help host Coffee Hour through the summer months. If you you like to talk with people, this could be a great opportunity for you! Don't be bashful if the technology piece is a challenge, MoFF can help charge those batteries with a couple of short training sessions. Please email Elder Matthew Garrett for additional information: faithformation@covenantweb.org.

All Good Gifts Are From God

Join us on **July 13 –17** (children ages 7-15) as we feature members of the church, sharing their talents with us and showing how they feel God in their talents! Some of the talents that will be presented are; herbs and plants, carpentry, photography and the mighty carillon!! Contact Kaori Hongo at khongo@covenantweb.org to join us.

Ministry of Faith Formation Meeting Monday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m., ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join MoFF by ZOOM on Monday, July 13th for a brainstorming session about possibilities!

Agenda topics will include: discussion about the possibility of video broadcast ministry at Covenant, and initial brainstorming for Christian Ed and Faith Formation this fall. Faith formation is a commitment for all of us, so we hope you'll join us to explore possibilities.

Covenant members are welcome to join a task force (small, limited time and effort commitment), participate with a support team (moderate commitment of time, effort, and ongoing planning), or just drop-in to this month's meeting to share your thoughts and ideas about faith formation efforts at Covenant! Contact Elder Matthew Garrett for the Zoom meeting link and for additional information: faithformation@covenantweb.org.

Cache Resale Shop Update

A date for reopening the Cache has not yet been set. The shop may not be open for some time. "The Cache Ladies" respectfully request that no donations be bought in to the church until further notice. Thank you, and stay well.

Ways to Help Feed The Hungry.

The Ministry of Service and Hunger Action Network have put together a document outlining ways you can help feed the hungry in our community.

It's located [on the Giving page of our website](#), so you can access it any time, or refer others to it.

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: <http://www.covenantweb.org/giving/>

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 COTC hunger fund. Your generosity will help those in our neighborhood who are hungry and need help during this pandemic. Thank you!

This Week at Covenant (July 12– July 18)

Sunday: Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 10 am;

[After-worship ZOOM Coffee Hour, 11 am.](#)

Church Building is Closed.

Monday: All Good Gifts Are from God, by Zoom, 10 am;

MoFF Meeting, by Zoom, 7 pm.

Church Building is Closed.

Tuesday: Staff Meeting, by Zoom, 9:30 am;

All Good Gifts Are from God, by Zoom, 10 am.

Church Building is Closed.

Wednesday: All Good Gifts Are from God, by Zoom, 10 am;

MoS Meeting, by Zoom, 6 pm.

Church Building is Closed.

Thursday: All Good Gifts Are from God, by Zoom, 10 am.

Church Building is Closed.

Friday: All Good Gifts Are from God, by Zoom, 10 am;

Lunchtime Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 12:15 pm.

Church Building is Closed.

Saturday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.

Summer Hymns: STILL Time to Share Your Favorites!

Do you have a favorite hymn that you have not heard in a while? This summer, our music staff invite you to suggest a favorite hymn or two and why they are special to you. We will feature a "Congregational Favorite" each week. Organist Jonathan Moyer is also offering to create an organ or piano improvisation of a favorite hymn as well. Likewise, if you have an organ favorite for Jonathan, please let us know. You can submit your request in one of two ways:

1. Click [HERE](#) to share your ideas in a Google Form.
2. Send us an email at music@covenantweb.org

Thanks To Our Landscaping Volunteers!

On Saturday, June 27th, a group of volunteers worked on the "Fragrant Sumac Hedge" in our parking lot. As Kate Williams reported "You just won't believe the number of weeds that were hand pulled out of it." Many thanks to: **Nancy Smekal, Nancy Acree, Kate Williams, Martha Goble, Michael Peters, Jim Prince, Keith Kallay, Will & Shannon.**

Cathy and Dick Miller cleaned up the two plant beds by the entry and started the area to the left of the side entrance of the Sanctuary. They were pulling weeds, and planting more hosta.

Coronavirus NOT Stopping Carillonners!

Greater Cleveland carillonners, 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 carillonners" (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.

Anti-Racism Resources

Please find below a link to PCUSA's selected resources for anti-racism education.

"As part of an ongoing campaign to address racial injustice, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is sharing a wealth of antiracism resources — including studies, books and training — to equip the greater church to work against racism."

[PCUSA Anti-Racism Resources](#)

SAVE THE DATE!! First Fun Friday

Join us on **Friday, August 7 from 6:00-7:00 pm** for Dog Days of August and Ice Cream too! Bring a cooling dip (or two) of your favorite ice cream. Share the flavor with the group and introduce your special pet and meet many more too!! Contact Kaori Hongo at khongo@covenantweb.org to join us.

Supplies Needed

Covenant member Dale Goode is looking for donations of any old paint, polyurethane, varnish or shellac you may have. He's also looking for all kind of old bed linens such as blankets, pillow cases, comforters and sheets, in any condition. He is working on a very large project and needs the supplies. Call Dale at: 216-229-7906 and he will pick up your donation.

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.



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