The Cragin Peal

Carillon Prelude

Swell the Full Chorus from “Solomon”

G. F. Handel

University of California, Riverside

David Christensen

Prelude

Präludium V in D major

Johann Christian Kittel

Jonathan W. Moyer, organ

Welcome & Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Mark A. Medina

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

Based on Psalm 16

Come, bless the Lord,
in whom we find our refuge and safety.

You are our God;
all the good things come from You alone.

Come, bless the Lord,
who gives us a rich inheritance,
and surrounds us with abundance.

You are our God;
our lives are in your hands.

Come, bless the Lord,
who guides us on the path to eternal life,
whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

You are our God;
we will not be shaken.
Let’s worship God together!

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.
Music selections this week feature Covenant soloist Anna O'Connell. A vocalist and harpist, Anna is a graduate student in the Historical Performance Practice program at CWRU. The anthem, "Kunc Salomon, dem niht gebrach" is a stanza from the anonymous Tougenthart, a late-medieval sequence whose title translates as the "Treasure hoard." A collection of descriptions of God's wonder, birth, and deeds, which here extend to his mother, Mary.

The offertory, "Se Mai Per Maravegila" was attributed to Franciscus Bossinensus and published by Petrucci (famous for being one of the first music printers) in a 1511 collection of lute songs. The unusually recited character, and poetic meter of the text suggest that it is based on an earlier style, while the lute accompaniment, played here on harp, is merely present to comment and support the recitation of the text.

- Anna O'Connell, notes
Call to Confession

Deacon Tom Denbow,
Lay Worship Leader

Corporate Prayer of Confession

God of grace and mercy, be present with us as we face an unknown future and as we walk paths untrodden. In the ever-changing and uncertain world where we find ourselves, help us to know and be assured that you are sovereign, that you are all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present. We know you hold us in our anxiety, distress, and confusion, and have a plan for our future. As your spirit moves through us, provide us with hope and calm our hearts and minds. Hear the prayers of our hearts and minds as we silently confess or sins.

Silent Confession of Sins

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve and seek a peaceful future with the Grace of God within you and amongst us. Amen. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Our Lay Worship Leader is Tom Denbow.
Tom and his wife Barb Clint have been members of the Church of the Covenant since 1995 and live in North Collinwood neighborhood, City of Cleveland where they see Lake Erie every day. Barb and Tom raised three children here at the Church of the Covenant (Cassie, Collin, and Kayla) and will be forever grateful to our church community for the lifelong spiritual lessons learned and the friendships gained on our family’s life journey. Tom continues to work for Biohabitats (conservation and ecological restoration) on a mostly part-time basis.

Today
10:00 Carillon Concert
McGaffin Carillon
11:00 ZOOM Coffee Hour
Click HERE to join via Zoom
4:30 MoFF Adult Forum Planning, by Zoom

Church Building Is Closed

Covenant Community Is Always Open
Gloria Patri

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

Anna O’Connell, soprano

"Kunc Salomon, dem niht gebrach" from Tougenhort Anonymous

King Solomon, who did not deny
God’s wisdom on earth spoke at length of her family tree;
her birth had a great deal to do with it.
She spoke: God has resided in me,
before all things began to be aware of his Majesty:
I am his Godly Minne.
I am the clear mirror of the deity.
I am his Joy, his Wish
I am his essence, his sweet Spikenard,
I am his blessed one.
I am also his worthy throne,
I am his eye-catcher,
I am the Godly desirable crown, when we dress together.
I am indeed the clear Godly shine,
Designed to be his Father’s Mother.
I helped him make all things, with my beautiful wisdom.
Heaven, earth, the first creation!
Splendid in his deity.
Before God created mountain, valley, and seas;
before these was I received.
I was for him his sweet call,
and had him surrounded;
highest, lowest, middle: altogether,
the breadth and also the length,
The furthest reaches, the center root,
he flows and courses, and crowds around.
I was there for all hours there, when this was created.
I am a friend to all the arts;
I have been confirmed in God.
I have been pleased to be in the eyes of God in his might;
he is my child, my brother good.

Time for Young Disciples

Kaori Hongo, Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministry
**Parting Response**

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**

**Old Testament Lesson**

Psalms 16:1-11

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

**Sermon**

Look Forward and Don’t Look Back

Rev. Mark A. Medina

**Time for Quiet Reflection**

**Affirmation of Faith**

Elder Erica Stubbs

From the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world— which some seek to control, but which others view with despair—we declare with joy and trust: 

Our world belongs to God!

From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until his kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever. Our world belongs to God!

God is King! Let the earth be glad!

Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah!

The Spirit is at work, renewing creation. Praise the Lord!

We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living.

As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful praise, we offer our hearts and lives to do God’s work in his world.
With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord. And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears.

Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you.
Amen.

**Hymn**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Congregational Favorite

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**BEECHER**

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1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n to earth come down.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast!
3. Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all thy life receive;
4. Finish, then, thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be;

Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown!
Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find the promised rest;
Suddenly return, and never, Never more thy temples leave.
Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee;

Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as thy hosts above;
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav’n we take our place,

Visit us with thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love.
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1747
Tune: John Zundel, 1870
Holy and Gracious God,  
you call us by name,  
Beloved One,  
and beckon us to follow you.  
May we do so through your grace.

In your Name we pray,  
Hear our prayer.

Like a shepherd tending the flock  
you tend to our needs.  
Be present with those who struggle, suffer,  
are in pain or sorrow.  
Guide those who are lost, or filled with worry and fear.  
Protect those who are in harm’s way  
heal those who are ill,  
mend those who are broken,  
as only your love can.

God of love,  
fill our hearts with the knowledge of You  
that we can turn from the distractions of life  
and be more like You.  
May we be agents of your compassion,  
offering kindness to those we meet this day.

God of all blessings,  
we thank you for all the gifts of life.  
For your Son, our Savior, our great Good Shepherd,  
the one who stands at the gate  
of all life’s challenges and joys,  
calling out to us in love.  
Naming us, Beloved.

For all this, and more we pray the prayer your Son  
taught 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
Se Mai Per Maraveglia
Anna O’Connell, harp & voice
Bossinensis

If ever in marvel, lifting up your face
to the bright heavens, think O blind people,
of that true Lord of Paradise.

Turn your eyes this way that I may show you
not that body (alas!), not that grief,
which you contemplate with your mind’s eye.

Weep for the grievous universal sorrow
weep for the bitter death and cruel suffering
if the spirit of pity touches your heart.

Already the locked and indestructible gates
of the infernal real have been broken and conquered
to make the world more constant and strong,
and he waits with arms outstretched.

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
I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1. I'm gonna live so (live so)
2. I'm gonna work so (work so) God can use me any where, Lord,
3. I'm gonna pray so (pray so)
4. I'm gonna sing so (sing so)

an - y - time!
I'm gonna live so (live so)
I'm gonna work so (work so) God can
I'm gonna pray so (pray so)
I'm gonna sing so (sing so)

use me any where, Lord,
(my Lord,) any - time!
(an - y - time!)

African-American spiritual
Arr. Wendell Whalum (1932-1987)
Responsive Benediction

As you go from here,
    keep the Lord always before you.

The Lord is at our right hand: we shall not be moved.
So let your heart be glad – let your soul rejoice!
    For God will show you the path of life.

In the Lord’s presence is fullness of joy.

Amen.

Postlude

Präludium XV in G major

Johann Christian Kittel

Carillon Postlude

“Carillon” from “Saul”

G. F. Handel

Wylie Crawford         University of Chicago

Please extinguish the candle.

An Update from Session for a Return to In-Person Worship

The Church of the Covenant Community continues to worship and fellowship from home, due to the challenges we face together from the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Wednesday, July 22, Session approved recommendations from the Reopening Task Force for returning to in-person worship. Detailed information will be communicated with our community through a separate eNews release, and that information will also be shared on our church website.

As we continue to seek ways to share resiliency and to nourish our faith, our building remains open only to mask-wearing essential staff, officers, and service persons.

We Keep in our Prayers: Barb Clint, Thelma Everhart, 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), Donna Prease, Jean Sacatsh (who was admitted into hospice), Kim Voss, Gabriel (Jenny Conner’s grand-nephew) and ALL Teachers. We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, or homebound; patients, family, and staff in our surrounding hospitals.
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, hosted by John Marsh.

MoFF needs Covenant Community members to help host Coffee Hour during the month of August. This is a great opportunity for folks who enjoy talking and listening! 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.

Get Your Covenant Community Yard Sign TODAY!
Celebrate our faith community at your home by displaying a Church of the Covenant yard sign! The Ministry of Faith Formation has a sign for any church member who wants one of the double-sided, full-color, 18” x 24” weatherproof masterpieces for your yard or home. Contact faithformation@covenantweb.org to reserve a sign for your family. The signs are free, but if you would like to make a $10+ contribution to the church we will happily accept your generosity.

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/

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.

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 brought in to the church until further notice. Thank you, and stay well.

This Week at Covenant (July 26– August1)

Sunday: Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 10 am;
After-worship ZOOM Coffee Hour, 11 am;
MoFF Adult Forum Planning, by Zoom, 4:30 pm.

Monday: No scheduled activities.

Tuesday: Staff Meeting, by Zoom, 9:30 am;
Tuesday Morning Bells, by Zoom, 11 am.

Wednesday: Food Pantry, Tower Door, 10 am.

Thursday: No scheduled activities.

Friday: Food Pantry, Tower Door, 10 am;
Lunchtime Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 12:15 pm.

Saturday: No scheduled activities.
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.

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!

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

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.

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

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.

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