

The
**Church of the
Covenant**

Sunday, July 5, 2020

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Service of Worship
for the Lord's Day

The Cragin Peal

Carillon Prelude

Ode to Joy

Beethoven

David Christensen University of California, Riverside

Prelude

Ostinato on "Simple Gifts"

Jonathan Moyer, organ

Jonathan Moyer

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Mark A. Medina

Joys and Concerns

Celebration of Community

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

Call to Worship

Has it been a rough week for you?

some way, it has.

Do you feel burdened and exhausted?

**Yes, This is supposed to be a season of relaxation,
but our spirits feel dragged down
with cares and concerns.**

Bring your cares to the Lord, for God

will surely offer healing balm for you.

**Thanks be to God who listens to our cries
and heals our spirits.**

**Let us worship the God who surrounds us with
love and comfort.**

**"GOD IS OUR REFUGE
AND STRENGTH,
AN EVER-PRESENT
HELP IN TROUBLE."**

- PSALM 46:1

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.

James Weidon Johnson, 1921

J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

Introduction

1. Lift ev - ery
2. Ston - y the
3. God of our

voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo -
 road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod, Felt in the days when
 wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who hast brought us

nies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the
 hope un - born had died; Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our
 thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might led us in -

lis - tening skies; Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 wea - ry feet Come to the place for which our *fa - thers sighed?
 to the light; Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

*Or "parents."

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MUSIC NOTES

The offertory today is a musical setting of the Gospel lesson from Matthew. Swedish composer Sven-David Sandström (b. 1942) composed new music to the same English libretto used in Handel's *Messiah*. The result was a 2009 world premiere at the Oregon Bach Festival, with our own Associate Music Director Michael Peters singing in the professional chorus. Sandström's work is quite challenging for the choir, divided at points into sixteen parts, and for the accompanying percussion. It almost seems as if the composer wanted to illustrate the effect of Christ taking on the burdens of the world so that the weary would truly know rest.

Our closing hymn is a request of Covenant community member Karen Ault. When asked why *O For a World* was important to her, Karen told us, "The hymn text was written by Sister Miriam Therese Winter, who was part of the Medical Mission Sisters. They gave medical service in India and made records of songs they sang. I listened to her talk at a Presbyterian Women's Gathering at Perdue University in July, 1986. She was the song leader there. She talked about the need for hymns after the

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee;

Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 tered, Out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 Thee; Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, Let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Call to Confession

Elder, Jennifer Conner,
 Lay Worship Leader

2nd Vatican Council allowed other languages than Latin in the Mass. So she began writing hymns with powerful meaning that rings true in our lives today."

Today's prelude and postlude were composed by Jonathan Moyer in 2016 and are based on the American Shaker song, "Simple Gifts."

Correction: Last Sunday's Prelude and Postlude were composed by the 19th century Belgian composer, Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens.

OUR LAY WORSHIP

LEADER is Jenny Conner.

Jenny joined the church in 1985. Through the years, Covenant has given her a home to actively explore and practice her faith in a supportive and open community. Ordained in 1990, she has chaired MOFF and CE, led the children's choirs, directed Pageants and Youth Sunday Services, and worked with the Youth. Jenny teaches music, and has composed numerous works for the church. She is a longstanding member of both the Chancel choir and Beckwith bells.

TODAY

10:00 Carillon Concert
 McGaffin Carillon

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

Corporate Prayer of Confession

God, When life is good and plentiful how easily we extol ourselves for our good works forgetting that all goodness comes from you. When times become difficult, how quickly we turn to blame, crying out, "Why have you forsaken us" forgetting that you are always there in the midst of our fear and pain. Forgive us for not fully believing that in good and in bad you are God.

God with us,
God in is.
God before us.
God through us.
Help us to truly live as we profess, even as we silently confess our sins.

Silent Confession of Sins

* *Kyrie*

John Merbecke

All are invited to sing.



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; You are mine. 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**

**CHURCH BUILDING
IS CLOSED**

**COVENANT
COMMUNITY IS
ALWAYS OPEN**

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

Time for Young Disciples

Kaori Hongo, *Coordinator of
Children & Youth Ministry*

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

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 145:8-14

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

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

Sermon

The Everlasting Arms of God

Rev. Mark A. Medina

Time for Quiet Reflection

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

1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,
 3 O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be-yond the years

for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties a-bove the fruit-ed plain!
 who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer-cy more than life!
 thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu-man tears!

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ery flaw;
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine

and crown thy good with *broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea!
 con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib-er-ty in law!
 till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness and ev-ery gain di-vine!

*Or "servanthood"

This text (inspired by the vista from Pike's Peak and by a visit to Chicago's Columbian World Exposition) and tune (named MATERNA because it was composed for "O Mother, Dear Jerusalem") were joined in 1912. The combination proved immensely popular during World War I and afterwards.

Offertory

Stuttgart Festival Ensemble, Helmuth Rilling conducting

His Yoke is Easy from *Messiah*

Sven-David Sandström

His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Virtual Communion will take place today. As part of the service, communion will be celebrated and we invite you to participate. Preparing for communion means for you to place bread of your choice on a plate and have a partially filled cup of unfermented or fermented juice for each of you. A short liturgy includes the words of institution at which time Rev. Medina will invite you to partake of the bread followed by drinking of the cup. A short musical interlude is played to give you time to partake of the elements and to reflect on the Lord's Supper.

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

John Merbecke

All are invited to sing.



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of hosts, Heav'n and earth are
full of Thy glo - ry: Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord Most High. A - men

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, Amen.

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Bread and Drinking of the Cup

Agnus Dei

John Merbecke

All are invited to sing.

O Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

O Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

O Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Prayer After Communion.

Gracious God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this meal you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us. Now send us forth from this place by the power of your Spirit to tell this good news to the world. Amen.

Hymn 386

O for a World

AZMON

Congregational Favorite

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

AZMON CM

Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1821
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1835

1. O for a world where ev - ery-one Re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2. O for a world where goods are shared And mis - er - y re - lieved,
3. We wel - come one world fam - i - ly And strug - gle with each choice
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, The fool - ish ones are wise.

Where love is lived and all is done With jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil-dren spared, E - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty And gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn; Out - casts be - long, Who per - ish - es will rise.

5. O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace. Where time and tears will be no more,
And all but love will cease.

God, who has given you rest and peace,
will go with you as you leave this place.
Feel the healing love of God in your life.
Bring the good news of God's love to all whom you meet.
Go in peace.
Amen.

Postlude

Gigue Fugue on "Simple Gifts"

Jonathan Moyer, organ
Jonathan Moyer

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

Carillon Postlude **CLICK HERE TO VIEW**

Washington Post March

John Phillip Sousa
Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania

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: Venerine Branham, 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.

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 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.

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/>

This Week at Covenant (July 5– July 11)

Sunday: Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 10 am;

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

Church Building is Closed.

Monday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.

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

Church Building is Closed.

Wednesday: Columbarium Service – Cheryl Branham

Church Building is Closed.

Thursday: Memorial Service – Cheryl Branham

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.

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.

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 Hymn: Share Your Favorites With Us!

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 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](#)

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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