

The
**Church of the
Covenant**

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29, 2020

Service of Worship
for the Lord's Day

Gathering

The Cragin Peal

Carillon Prelude

Ciacona in f minor

Johann Pachelbel

Koen Van Assche Lier, Belgium

Greeting & Announcements

1 Corinthians 1:3

Rev. Bill Hudson

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.

And also with you.

Prelude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599

(Now come, Savior of the Nations)

Gottes Sohn ist kommen, BWV 600

(The Son of God Is Come)

Kaori Hongo, organ

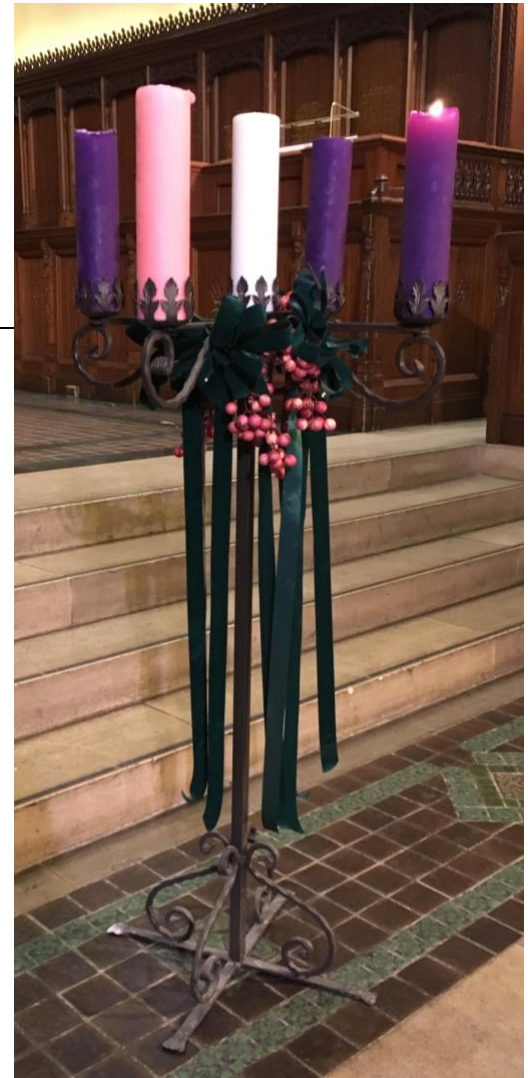
J.S. Bach

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
**nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.**

Isaiah 2:4

**We light this candle as a sign
of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ.**



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.

Opening Prayer

Stir up thy power, O God, and come,
that by thy protection we may be rescued
from the dangers that beset us
through our sins;
and be a Redeemer to deliver us;
Who livest and reignest with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Gregorian Sacramentary 900 AD

Hymn 352

My Lord! What a Morning

MY LORD

Glory To God

My Lord! what a morn - ing; my Lord! what a morn - ing;

O my Lord! what a morn - ing, when the stars be - gin to

Fine

1 You will hear the trum - pet
fall, when the stars be - gin to fall. 2 You will hear the sin - ner
3 You will hear the Chris - tian

sound
cry,
shout,

to wake the na - tions un - der ground,

to Refrain

look - ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

This spiritual reflects on Jesus' saying about the endtimes as recorded in Matthew 24:29-30/Mark 13:24-26. It belongs to the slower, less common style of spirituals with long, sustained phrases and was among those popularized in concerts by the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989
Music Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING
Irregular

MUSIC NOTES

Today's prelude and postlude music is taken from J.S.Bach's Orgelbüchlein collection. There are 45 choral preludes in this collection and they represent each part of the liturgical church year. The three played today are from the Advent section. In "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" you will hear a descending line start the piece. This represents the coming down of Christ to the world. "Gottes Sohn ist kommen" is a canon between the top line and the pedal. The middle voice is a flowing passage of eighth notes, which gives the feeling of joy throughout the piece. You can also hear this joy in the postlude, "Herr Gott, nun sei gepreiset" through the motif of the pedal part, which is heard throughout the composition.

Prayer of Confession

Bob Ault, *Liturgist*

**Gracious and Loving God,
forgive us our sin of Racism,
help us to repent and walk in a new direction,
knowing that God's reconciling love
breaks down every form of discrimination
based on racial or ethnic differences.
Help us to know that it is the work of the Church
to abolish such discrimination in society,
and care for those whom hatred has harmed.
Forgive us for constant gun violence in our community
that leads to so many gun deaths,
including numerous children.
Help us Lord to take action to support
common sense gun regulations,
as scripture teaches us faith without works is dead.
We ask your forgiveness as we silently confess our sins.**

Silent Confession of Sins

Kyrie

John Merbecke

All are invited to sing.



Declaration of Forgiveness

Romans 8

Hear the Good News! 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 height 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.

**OUR LAY WORSHIP
LEADER is Bob Ault.**

Bob, who with his wife Karen joined the Covenant in November 1997. He has served on Session, Clerk of Session, the Stewardship Committee, Ministry of Service, a Stephen Minister and a tutor at Daniel E. Morgan School. Bob serves on the Board of God Before Guns, and has served on numerous Presbytery committees and was the Moderator of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve. Bob and Karen have three married children and thirteen grandchildren.

TODAY

10:00 Carillon Concert
McGaffin Carillon

10:30 ZOOM Coffee Chat
[Click HERE to join via Zoom](#)

12:00 Children's Sunday
Zoom Meeting
[Click HERE to join via Zoom](#)

Gloria

Hymn 23, refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Sacred Word

Adventus (Latin) – Advent – arrival / coming

Time for Young Disciples

Rev'd. Bill Hudson

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.*

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Psalm 119:105

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.
Amen.**

**DUE TO THE
UPDATED COVID-19
RISK LEVEL FOR
CUYAHOGA COUNTY,
PLEASE CALL THE
OFFICE TO SCHEDULE
AN APPOINTMENT.
216-421-0482**

ENCOUNTER
We receive the good news
of God's love, mercy, and
justice revealed to us
through the Bible.

Holy wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalter 355 Psalm 80 - O Hear Our Cry, O Lord VINEYARD HAVEN

Capo 1: (Bm) (D) (A) (C) (Em) (Bm)
 Cm Eb Bb Db Fm Cm

1 O hear our cry, O Lord; now hear us as we pray.
 2 En - throned a - bove all worlds, you shine with ho - ly light.
 3 O Lord, the God of Hosts, turn not your face a - way.
 4 O Lord, our God, re - turn; bring peace in - to each home.

(F#m) (D) (Bm) (F#m) (B7) (E)
 Gm Eb Cm Gm C7 F

You guide us as a shep-herd leads, so keep us in your way.
 Lord, pour your power up - on us all and save us with your might.
 Our tears have been both food and drink; foes mock us night and day.
 So let your face shine on us all; re - store us as your own.

(A) (Dm) (G) (C) (F) (B) (F#) (B)
 Bb Ebm Ab Db Gb C G C

O come; Lord, come; re - store and save us now.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The use of a refrain in this paraphrase of Psalm 80 effectively represents both the structure and the spirit of the original prayer for the restoration of God's favor. Even in the midst of feeling cut off from God, there remains a sense of confidence in God's unfailing mercy.

TEXT: Fred R. Anderson, 1986
 MUSIC: Richard Wayne Dirksen, 1974
 Text © 1986 Fred R. Anderson
 Music © 1974, ren. Harold Flammer Music (a div. of Shawnee Press, Inc.)

VINEYARD HAVEN
SM with refrain

CONTACT

LEADERSHIP

Rev. Bill Hudson,
 Transitional Pastor,
 Head of Staff
 whudson@covenantweb.org

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. Bill Hudson,
 Transitional Pastor,
 Head of Staff

George Leggiero, MA
 Carillonner

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

Holy wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Alleluia

349 vs 1

All are invited to sing the first stanza.

1 "Sleep-ers, wake!" A voice as - tounds us; the shout of ram-part
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her heart with joy - ful
 3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let saints and an - gels

guards sur - rounds us: "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"
 hope is spring - ing; she wakes and hur - ries through the night.
 sing be - fore you, as harps and cym-bals swell the sound.

Mid - night's peace their cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum-mons
 Forth he comes, her Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in
 Twelve great pearls, the cit - y's por - tals: through them we stream to

SESSION

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

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

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Matthew Garrett,
Sybil Marsh, Cathy Miller

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Ann Williams

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Harriet Wadsworth

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

clear-ly spo - ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
truth vic - to - rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
join the im - mor - tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, in - car - nate
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and has - ten there,
Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and heed your call
light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to greet our King;

that you the wed - ding feast may share."
to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

SEND

Having been nurtured and nourished through worship, we are sent from this place to glorify God in the service of our daily lives.

This text is based on the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13), but contains allusions to many other New Testament passages. Because one person created both text and tune, they combine majestically to form what is often called "the king of chorales."

Gospel Lesson Mark 13:24-37

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

God is Faithful

Rev. Bill Hudson

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.**

Invitation to Offering

Click here to visit the church's online giving page

Offertory

O Thou, the Central Orb

Covenant Chancel Choir

Charles Wood

O thou, the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most high, eternal light of this our wintry world,
thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

RESPOND

Having heard God's word proclaimed, we offer music, prayers, and a portion of the financial resources we have received. Thank you for your generous response to God's gracious love!

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
As stars about thy throne
set in the height of God's ordaining counsel,
as thy sight give measured grace,
gives grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee,
Transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within.

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**

The Eucharist

Invitation to the Table

John 6:35

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
And whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

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.

It is truly right and our greatest joy...
...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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. Hudson 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.

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

...Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died!
Christ is risen!
Christ will come again!**

Pour out your Holy Spirit...
...forever and ever. **Amen.**

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

AMEN VENI EMMANUEL

All are invited to sing.



A - men, A - - - men, A - - - - - men.

Breaking of the Bread

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!
 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all God's benefits.

Sending

Charge

Mark 13:35-37

Therefore, keep awake
 for you do not know when the master of the house will come,
 in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,
 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Hymn 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTT GART

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you,

Postlude

Herr Gott, nun sei gepreiset, BWV 601
(Lord God, now be praised)

Kaori Hongo, organ
Johann Sebastian Bach

Carillon Postlude

Azzurro (Light Blue)

Paolo Conte
Martien van der Knijff Hasselt, The Netherlands

Please Note:

The church building is temporarily closed once again due to the Updated COVID-19 Risk Level for Cuyahoga County. Please contact the office for more information.

COVID – 19 SAFETY PROCEDURES

We Are Following the Guidelines of the State of Ohio.

1. Masks **MUST** be worn while you are in the church building.
2. Wash your hands frequently.
3. Practice Social Distancing – keep six feet apart while in the church building.

We Keep in our Prayers: Jim Bishop, Thelma Everhart, David Keltner, Pat Owen-Keltner, Greg Madison, Reathel McWhorter, Susan Moyer (Jonathan's mother), Gene Papp, Carolyn Perry, George Peters (Michael's father), Mildred Russin, Raymond Tomko (Nick's grandfather), Kim Voss, Julia Wadsworth, Jim Watson, Gabriel (Jenny Conner's grand-nephew) and ALL teachers, students and parents. We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, or homebound; patients, family, and staff in our surrounding hospitals.

Covenant Sunday Coffee Chat, 10:30 am by ZOOM

The Ministry of Faith Formation hosts a virtual coffee fellowship time each week,
[CLICK HERE](#) to join us!

Deacons Christmas Gifts

This Christmas season, more Covenant members will be homebound than ever. The Deacons are working hard to make warm lap blankets for anyone who is feeling shut in this winter. Recipients will be contacted by phone and the blankets will be delivered to your door without contact. If you or anyone you know of could use a blanket or if you would like to make a blanket for someone this season please contact *Julie Mailey* at [440-729-0957](tel:440-729-0957). Leave a message and you will receive a callback.

2020 Giving Trees Information

In past years, the Deacons have planned multiple events to connect Covenant members to the neighborhood surrounding our church. We as Deacons want to continue the spirit of these past events while following the Ohio Stay Safe Guidelines. One of these groups is the Cleveland School of the Arts. We have been in contact with Renee Dibiasio, and Christmas Giving Tree for Cleveland School of the Arts is still on for this year! Click the PDF link below, and let Erin Tomko know which items you've chosen (ebak23@gmail.com or (440) 552-9795).

[CSA Giving Tree List](#)

Another of these groups is the Ernest J. Bohn Center of the Benjamin Rose Institute On Aging. The Deacons are also happy to say that the Christmas Giving Tree for this senior community is still on for this year! There are 37 seniors in our neighborhood who have selected gift cards, some of whom may otherwise go without any Christmas present. If you would like to participate in this Deacons sponsored program, first please pick a person in the PDF below and then purchase a \$25 gift card at either Dave's Market or Walmart. Let Nancy Matz know which name you've chosen (nmatz@att.net or (216) 621-6366).

You could put your gift card into a signed Christmas card and send by December 10th to either Dennis Matz at the church office or Nancy Matz at 340 Claymore Blvd, Richmond Hts., OH 44143.

[Ernest Bohn Center Giving Tree List](#)

Cache Ladies Gathering

Thank you to the Cache Ladies for sorting through coats for distribution to various social service agencies.

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/>

iPads & Tablets Needed!

The church is looking for gently used iPads or tablets to donate to shut-in members that would like to enjoy our Virtual Service. If you can help, contact Dennis Matz at dmatz@covenantweb.org

Reminder:

The church food pantry is open **ONCE** for the month of December. The date is Friday, December 18th.

First Fun Friday Update

Dec. 4th!! Come and decorate our 10 foot outside Christmas Tree!! We will be decorating the tree with handmade ornaments by Cathy Miller!! With the social distancing precautions, we have created a plan where you can email Kaori Hongo (khongo@covenantweb.org) to schedule a time slot during the day. We will have a bag ready for you to pick up at the tree and you can decorate the tree with your family or pod, take pictures and send them to Kaori to create a Christmas Community Collage. We will be posting more information on our web-site, so please check our web-site next week for more information. For those who cannot come in person but want an ornament put on the tree, please contact Kaori and we will put one on for you.

Children's Sunday Zoom Meeting

We had seven friends on 11/22, our last session with Ms. Jenny. We worked on adding pictures to our song Ms. Jenny composed for us and talked about hope for the future. Ms. Jenny shared one of her favorite Bible passages. "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31. We talked about preparing for Advent and what it means to us to have a new beginning. We are looking forward to hearing AND seeing our musical creation you guided us through!! Thank you so much Ms. Jenny for leading us through so many fun activities and beautiful music!!

Kaori Hongo

Upcoming Book Discussion

The Ministry of Faith Formation will be sponsoring three Adult Education Forums, starting in January, discussing Isabel Wilkerson's book, *Caste*. Hugh Burtner will be the leader. Members are encouraged to get on library waiting lists now. You might also consider supporting a local bookseller by making a purchase in-person or online. Loganberry Bookstore in Shaker Heights, for example, currently has copies and will ship directly to your home. Contact faithformation@covenantweb.org if you need help getting a copy.

This Week at Covenant (November 29–December 5)

Sunday: Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 10 am;

Covenant Sunday Coffee Chat, [Click HERE to join by Zoom](#), 10:30 am;

Children's Sunday Zoom Meeting, [Click HERE to join via Zoom](#), 12:00 pm.

Monday: No scheduled activities.

Tuesday: Staff Meeting, by Zoom, 9 am;

Introductory Class for Handbell and Tone Chimes, "Les Cigales" (French for The Cicadas), by Zoom, 11 am.

Wednesday: Deacons Meeting, by Zoom, 6:30 pm.

Thursday: Chancel Choir Virtual Rehearsal, by Zoom, 7:30 pm.

Friday: No scheduled activities.

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.

Volunteer Opportunity

Reparations Now Cleveland is seeking the volunteer services of either a CPA, accountant or tax attorney to assist this start-up organization in establishing processes and procedures which will ensure, among other things, that all contributions received are properly acknowledged for tax purposes. Covenant member Cassie Denbow serves on their Steering Committee and will connect any potential volunteer(s) with the local Reparations Now Cleveland team members. Contact Cassie at cassie.denbow@gmail.com for further information.



The Church of the Covenant
11205 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106
216.421.0482 • CovenantWeb.org
Covenant@CovenantWeb.org