

The
**Church of the
Covenant**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Service of Worship
for the Lord's Day

Pageant Sunday

The Cragin Peal

Carillon Prelude

Away in a Manger

Jonathan Spilman
David Christensen University of California, Riverside

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Covenant Handbell Quartet
arr. Groth

Lighting of the Advent Candle

John, Angela and JB Lind

The Lord himself will give you a sign.
Look, the young woman is with child.
**She shall bear a son,
and name him Immanuel: "God is with us."**

Isaiah 7:14

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

Opening Prayer

He came as a baby in a manger.
O come, let us adore him.
He came in a lowly stable.
O come, let us adore him.



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.

Shepherds brought their worship.
O come, let us adore him.
 Angels sang his praise.
O come, let us adore him.
 Magi brought their gifts.
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Carol 114

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

Glory To God

Capo 5: (C) (Am) (C) (Dm)
 F Dm F Gm

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(F) (G) (C) (Dm) (F) (G)
 B^b C F Gm B^b C

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(C) (Dm)
 F Gm

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 C F Gm C F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is night.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

This anonymous carol probably originated among Pennsylvania Lutherans in the late 19th century, giving rise to a mistaken assertion that it had been written by Martin Luther. This tune is also by an American but has become the one usually used in Canada and Great Britain.

MUSIC NOTES

All are invited to watch our video-recorded "Music Notes" this week available in the e-news and interactive bulletin emails or [by clicking here](#).

PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS

Ivy Goodman
 Marley Goodman
 Owen Hatfield
 JB Lind
 Christopher Moyer
 Samuel Moyer
 Julianna Minadeo
 Owen Misch

TODAY

10:00 Carillon Concert
McGaffin Carillon

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

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

216-421-0482

Sacred Word **לְאִמָּנוּאֵל** - immanu'el "God is with us." Isaiah 7:14
Ἐμμανουήλ - em·man·oo·ale Matthew 1:23

Prophets **Isaiah 9:2-7**

Gospel **Luke 2:1-20**

Invitation to Offering

Click here to view the church's online giving page.

Offertory Youth Handbells
We Three Kings arr. Lula Royer Ramsdell
Owen Misch, Christopher & Samuel Moyer

Gospel **Matthew 2:1-12**

Doxology

Invitation to the Table

It is in Bethlehem the Christ Child was born.
The name Bethlehem literally means "House of Bread."
And it is from this House of Bread
that a Saviour came through the House of David
who said,

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 to the Lord.

ENCOUNTER

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

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
Carillonneur

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.
It is right and a good and joyful thing . . .
. . . sing your praise in the angels' song:

113

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

. . . Great is the mystery of Faith:

145, v 3

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

. . . almighty God, now and forever.

#108, v 3

**O, that birth forever blessed
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore! 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.



Breaking of the Bread

SEND

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

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!

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

Prayer After Communion

Almighty God,
you have poured upon us
the new light of your incarnate Word:
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts,
may shine forth in our lives,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Carol 128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ZLOBIE LEZY

Glory To God

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.

Swift are wing-ing an-gels sing-ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing:
Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor-row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6-20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means "He lies in a cradle" or "In manger lying."

TEXT: Polish carol; trans. Edith M. G. Reed, 1920; rev. 1921
MUSIC: Polish folk melody; harm. Arthur E. Rusbridge, 1962

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY
8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7
(this tune in a lower key, 410)

SESSION

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

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

CLASS OF 2022: Heidi Braun,
Kathy Farkas,
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 Szafranec,
Janet Takeyama,
Erin Tomko, Kate Williams

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

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

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
 and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
 and they were terrified.
 But the angel said to them,
 “Do not be afraid;
 for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy
 for all the people:
 to you is born this day in the city of David
 a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Carol 144

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

Glory To God

1 In the bleak mid-win - ter, frost - y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

‡ in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 ‡ wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

Christmas Blessing

May the humility of the Shepherds,
The perseverance of the Maji,
The joy of the Angles,
And the peace of the Christ-child
Be God's gifts to you
This Christmas time, and always.

Postlude

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

16th Century French melody,
arr. Hal H. Hopson

Carillon Postlude

A Christmas Peal

Laura Hewitt
David Christensen University of California, Riverside

Please Note:

The church building is temporarily closed once again due to the Updated COVID-19 Risk Level for Cuyahoga County. Most of the staff will be working from home starting on 11/30. Willie Howard will be in the office Tuesday–Friday and can be reached by phone at 216-280-5296. The custodial staff will be in the building Monday – Friday from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. Please contact the office for more information.

The church will be closed Christmas Day and Monday, December 28th.

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: Carrie Arden, Jim Bishop, Thelma Everhart, Kitty Jarjisian, David Keltner, Greg Madison, Reathel McWhorter, Susan Moyer (Jonathan's mother), Gene Papp, Carolyn Perry, George Peters (Michael's father), Jim Rorimer, Mildred Russin, Arthur Tirolly, 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.

Our Prayers are with David Keltner and family on the death of Pat Owen-Keltner on December 12th.

Memorial Service

Hi, Rev. Hudson. I just wanted to reach out to say thank you for preparing such a lovely service today. There is never a good time to die, but in the middle of a pandemic, certainly seems to be the worst. There is so much inhumanity surrounding navigating end of life issues during COVID, but today you provided such a warm and welcoming space for our family to grieve. It did not feel like we were settling - instead it was the most lovely funeral I've attended. Thank you for providing that gift to my family. *Susan Keltner*

Thanks to all who helped in this service, especially Barb Clint, Martha Goble, Cathy Luck, Willie Howard and Jonathan Moyer. *Rev. Bill*

Memory Book

Please email memories of Pat to Willie Howard at whoward@covenantweb.org or Dennis Matz at dmatz@covenantweb.org We will paste the emails into the memory book and present it to David.

We Celebrate with organist and associate music director Dr. Jonathan Moyer, on the occasion of being awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor at Oberlin College & Conservatory. Congratulations, Jonathan!

Congratulations!!

Covenant member Joan Drushel has been a dedicated volunteer for the Heights High Instrumental Department and is this year's 2020 Reaching Heights Friend of Public Education honoree. Congratulations Joan!

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!

Children's Sunday Zoom Meeting

Pageant Sunday!! It is here, and we are very excited to share the story of the birth of Jesus through the readings of the books of Luke and Matthew. Last week we met in our Zoom Meeting and rehearsed our passages with Mrs. Smekal, Mrs. Williams and Ms. Kaori. Please look in the sidebar of the bulletin to see the full list of the cast who will be reading today. I also would like to send a big "Thank you!" to the families of each child/ren. Without your help and support we could not have been able to put this together – your video work and "directing" was phenomenal!! Please keep an eye out for packages coming through the mail for your children!! We are planning our 2021 curriculum and are excited to explore the words in the Bible. Please feel free to contact me at khongo@covenantweb.org if you have any questions or ideas for the new year!! As we close this year of 2020, we all wish you a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year-2021! *Kaori Hongo*

Share Christmas Photos of Covenant Community for our virtual Christmas Eve Service

We will celebrate the families of the Covenant Community during the candle lighting element of our virtual Christmas Eve service. Dr. Jennifer Conner has offered to pair our traditional arrangement of *Stille Nacht/Silent Night* with a photo collage of congregant families from this or a past Christmas season. Folks might also consider a picture including a candle, for this particular carol. For additional information or to share a digital photograph, please contact faithformation@covenantweb.org.

Daily Advent Reading Videos

Dear Friends, please join us as we read the Bible through the season of Advent together. Jenny Conner has created a beautiful Advent Calendar with special Bible readings to go with every day. If you are able, please print this out and color each day as you read the passage. Kaori Hongo will be reading each passage and will post it on the Church Facebook page. They will also be posted on the front page of the church's website!

Many blessings for this very important season.

Advent Reading Calendar

2020 Pledge Commitments

The church is very appreciative of all the contributions members and friends provide. In 2020, we had pledges of \$230,000 and we based our budget on that number. It would be helpful if all members could complete their 2020 commitment to the best of their ability to do so. Currently we are short about \$40,000 to this number."

2021 Stewardship Update

Our 2021 pledge goal is \$200,000. To date (12/16/20) we have received 59 pledges totaling \$192,500. We are short \$7,500. Thanks to all who have pledged. We're well on our way!

This Week at Covenant (December 20–December 26)

Sunday: Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 10 am;

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

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

Tuesday: Staff Meeting, by Zoom, 9 am;

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

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

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

Thursday: Christmas Eve – Holiday Lunchtime Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 12:15 pm.
Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 7 pm. **Christmas Eve Service (virtual).**

Friday: Church Office/Building is closed for Christmas Day.

Saturday: No scheduled activities

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 your public library lending lists now. You might also consider supporting a local bookseller by making a purchase online. Loganberry Bookstore in Shaker Heights and Appletree Books in Cedar/Fairmount can help you with orders by phone or online, and books will ship to your home. Contact faithformation@covenantweb.org if you need help getting a copy.

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/>

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

UPCaM – UNITED PROTESTANT CAMPUS MINISTRY

Student Ministries December Spotlight

A CWRU Food Pantry

This December and January, a select number of CWRU undergraduates and graduates will remain on-campus or living nearby. To address concerns of food insecurity these students may experience and public health mandates, CWRU and Rev. Shelley Nelson-Bridger created a temporary pick-up and go food pantry. Students will pre-register for a box provided by Church of the Covenant. The pick-up location is the Thwing Student Center. To learn more about food insecurity on college campuses and our programs, contact Shelley at office@upcam.org.

UPCaM's Advent Lessons & Carols

Celebrate Advent with this pre-recorded devotional created by UPCaM, CWRU students studying remotely and two friends from Cleveland Institute of Music. Enjoy a beautiful hymn recorded in a treasured, sacred space. This virtual offering of UPCaM's is now sharable, learn more at www.upcam.org.

[Watch the video here!](#)

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