

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Overwhelmed by Grace, Committed to Serve”

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022

WELCOME – You are welcome, just as you are, at Covenant Presbyterian Church. We particularly welcome those who have been away from the church for a while, and those who are not members of any church. Whether you are married, single, divorced, or in transition, you truly matter to us because you matter to God. We vary our musical styles and our format for worship services from one week to the next to help us explore different approaches to offering our gratitude to God and opening ourselves to the Spirit. We invite you to these celebrations of worship, as together we share the love of Jesus Christ. Catch the vision and experience the excitement at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chad Bosse

*GREET ONE ANOTHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

*CHORAL INTROIT

“Come Down, O Love Divine” No. 282, v1, 3

Come down, O Love Divine; seek out this soul of mine, and visit it with your own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear, and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling.

For none can guess God’s grace, till Love creates a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

*CALL TO WORSHIP from *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Preaching, and the Arts* Praise the Lord, all the earth!

Scott Simpson

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise the Lord in the heights.

Praise the name of the Lord, and the Lord’s glory shall be praised,

for people near and people far,

for people present and people to come,

for the young and for those wise with age.

Come, let us praise the Lord; come, let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMNS

“This Joyful Eastertide” No. 244, v1

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!

My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain. But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen!

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King!” No. 363, v1, 2

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!

Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Scott Simpson

WE CONFESS OUR SINS AND RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Because we are loved, we are called to turn to God in humility. We fall short of who God calls us to be, but we are never forsaken. In faith and with confidence as beloved children, let us confess our sin to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you command us to love one another, yet we hold grudges and refuse to work for peace. You command us to care for all of creation, yet we neglect the earth and abuse nature through carelessness. You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus, yet we too often walk our own way. Forgive us, O God. Guide us as we work toward a new heaven here on earth. Lead us to reconciliation and a vision for your beloved community, as we share your love with your people everywhere.

A TIME OF PRIVATE, PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS from Psalm 103:8-12

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *"Where Charity and Love Prevail"* No. 316, v1, 4

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.

Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME

Martha Hernandez

MENTAL HEALTH MOMENT

Dr. Michael McMains

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 11:1-18
John 13:31-35

Scott Simpson
Rev. Sonja Dalglish

SERMON

"Love One Another" ~ John 13:34

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE & CALL

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—*A Declaration of Faith*

Rev. Sonja Dalglish

In the death of Jesus Christ, God's way in the world seemed finally defeated. But death was no match for God. The resurrection of Jesus was God's victory over death. Death often seems to prove that life is not worth living, that our best efforts and deepest affections go for nothing. We do not yet see the end to death. But Christ has been raised from the dead, transformed and yet the same person. In his resurrection is the promise of ours. We are convinced the life God wills for each of us is stronger than the death that destroys us. The glory of that life exceeds our imagination and we know we shall be with Christ. So we treat

death as a broken power. Its ultimate defeat is certain. In the face of death we grieve. Yet in hope we celebrate life. No life ends so tragically that its meaning and value are destroyed. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (Ecumenical)

Unison: Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF GIFTS & MUSIC

Invitation to the Offering

Music

“Speak, O Lord”

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You, to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness;
that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

(interlude)

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity;
and by grace we'll stand on Your promises; and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Congregational Response

“Doxology”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication

Scott Simpson

HYMN

“Help Us Accept Each Other” No. 754, v1, 3, 4

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

WE GO TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Sonja Dalglish

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Congregational Care Ministry Team Members to Make Hospital and Home Visits

If you are going to the hospital for surgery and would like someone to wait with or be with your family, or if you're home from the hospital and would like a visit, your Congregational Care Ministry Team is here for you.

With visiting restrictions eased in hospitals, Pastor Dan going on sabbatical for the next four months, and a newly-formed team of volunteers who would like to make hospital or home visits, we will be ready when the need arises for those visits. Our supply pastors will be available for emergencies and certain other needs that may arise, and the Congregational Care will be "first responders" May-August and continue to visit upon Dan's return.

Please call the church office if you are going to the hospital or if you're home from the hospital and would like a visit from a friend in your church family.



Mission Focus Sunday

Mission Focus Sunday - May 29th @ 9AM in Mission Hall

Join us to learn more about SAMMinistries on Sunday, May 29th. For over 38 years, SAMMinistries has served the population experiencing homelessness in our city. Utilizing a compassionate, holistic approach focused on bringing self-sufficiency, pride, and dignity to struggling families. Their breath of services includes Prevention Programs, a Young Adult Stability and Service center (YASS), Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Veterans Assist programs, and Permanent Supportive Housing. The partnership between Covenant Presbyterian Church and SAMMinistries has been a blessing since 1990. Make plans to attend Mission Focus Sunday on May 29th!

San Antonio Missions Baseball \$2 Tuesday Game Night

**Tuesday, May 31st, 7:05pm
Nelson W. Wolff Stadium**



Our seats are in the reserved infield bleacher seating.

Tickets are \$18 (\$10 seat & \$8 concession credit).

Please let Rebekah or Denise know how many tickets you want.

**Join us for a "homerun" of a time.
Contact Rebekah Hernandez or Denise Haley for more information.**



Children's Sunday School

Growing in Grace & Gratitude

Sundays @ 9:00am

Covenant's Children's Sunday School class features the curriculum, "Growing in Grace & Gratitude", which helps transform the lives of children and those who love them, shaped by grace and gratitude. Each session shares a Bible story that reveals God's grace for us. Through

fun, age-appropriate activities, and prayer, children will celebrate the meaning of this grace in their lives as they encounter a living God.

We enter into Eastertide--the time when the liturgical color is still white to celebrate the glory of resurrection and the time for expressing gratitude for God's grace and love. We hear it in the story of the surprising appearance of Jesus on the road to Emmaus, and in the story of forgiveness for the woman who has sinned and expresses her gratitude in pure devotion. We encounter Martha and Mary, the sisters who both demonstrate service and devotion, and learn what it means to spend time with Jesus. In the story of the ten people who were healed of their leprosy, we learn that praise and thanksgiving can be as simple as saying "thank you." And, as we heard in Jesus' story about the father who welcomed his prodigal son home, so Jesus came to Zacchaeus, called him down from the tree, and welcomed him. It is truly a time for expressing gratitude for God's grace, love, and embrace!

Our Children's Sunday School class will meet online via Zoom as well as in-person in our Esperanza classroom. Parents can access the Zoom link and password by contacting Chad Bosse (chad@covenantcares.org). We hope your child will join us on Sunday mornings!

PRAYER REQUESTS

ILL/HOSPITALIZED/NEED PRAYERS

Patricia Brown
Jeanine Clough
Dennis Irish
Sharon Fowler
Mona Haack
Al Kissling
John Lorch
Mary Frances Martin
Mabel Matile
Jamy Pressly
Mary Rogers
Rachel Vasquez
Dale Truett

David Worley III, son of Beverly Worley
Deborah Ann Pena, daughter of Agapita Flores

COLLEGE & GRADUATE STUDENTS

Claudia Carrasco Brito
Sofia Carrasco Brito
Ethan Dowell
Hannah Dowell
Rebekah Hernandez
KaeLynn Hixson
Zach Hopkins
Alexander Manibusan
Michael Manibusan
Alex Moreno
Katelyn Pitcher
Tess Pitcher

SHUT-INS

Suzanne Snyder

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Conner Hays
James L. Millard, son of Lisa Buford

EXTENDED FAMILY

Ed Burris, son of Beverly Burris

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list in the bulletin, please email the Church Office at Office@covenantcares.org

Session Elders & Ministries

Outreach/Mission

Janice Shute

Christian Education

Martha Hernandez

Young Adults & Youth

Karl Hays

Evangelism

Kathy Simmons

Maintenance & Technology

Mike Flinn

Fellowship

Norma Jean Demmer

Congregational Care

Denise Haley

Personnel/Communications

Paul Watson

Planning

Martha Wright

Adult Ministry

Demarius Douthit

Finance/Stewardship

Kathryn Safford

Worship/Music

Marshall Nelson



Mental Health Awareness Month- May
Our brains interpret loneliness as a threat.
Companionship is a strong antidote to loneliness.
Who are our companions?
To whom are we a companion?

NEW! Weekly Small Group Bible Study
Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet
by Adam Hamilton

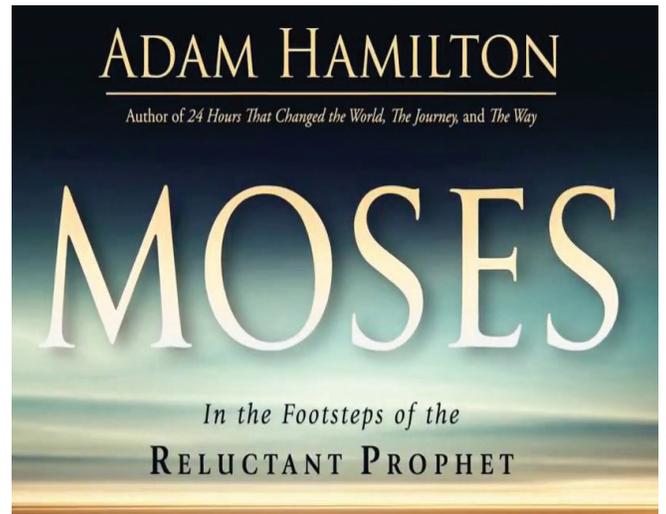
Covenant continues to offer many different opportunities to gather via Zoom for Weekly Bible Study. Beginning the week after Easter, our Weekly Small Groups will study *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet* by Adam Hamilton. Retrace the life of Moses from his modest birth and rescue as a baby to the courts of Pharaoh, from herding flocks in Midian to leading his people out of Egypt.

Join Adam Hamilton as he travels from Egypt to Mt. Sinai, the Nile, the Red Sea and the wilderness exploring the sites of Moses' life. Using historical information, archaeological data, and biblical text, Hamilton guides us in the footsteps of this reluctant prophet who grew in his relationship with God and by the end of life had successfully fulfilled the role he was given.

Turn your own reluctance into boldness as you examine the significant challenges facing Moses and how God shaped his character and life in powerful ways.

Each of our Weekly Bible Study groups are open—meaning anyone can join at any time. Please take a look at meeting times, as well as Zoom information for all of our weekly Bible studies on our webpage:

<https://www.covenantcares.org/weekly-bible-study/>



We are always delighted to have visiting friends attend Covenant worship services and special activities. We warmly welcome you with Christian love and are so glad that you choose to spend your time with us. Every person who walks through our door is important to us. In an effort to welcome you more heartily, we have greeters in our Narthex each week and are asking you to fill out a name tag and a contact card (to leave with a greeter when you leave). You are always welcome here, and thank you for coming!



NEW! Adult Sunday School

The Grace of Les Misérables by Matt Rawle

Emmaus Classroom @ 9:00am
Beginning April 24th

Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a truly epic story. Whether you've tackled the 1,400-page 19th century novel, witnessed the Broadway musical (and memorized its soundtrack), or seen the several screen adaptations of it, you already know the power of its story.

In *The Grace of Les Misérables* study, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo's story. As these imperfect and relatable characters interact, we can see how these ideals work together (perhaps even in spite of each other) out in the world.

In keeping with his previous works, Matt Rawle brings us to the intersection of Church and Pop Culture by drawing parallels between the iconic story and musical and our Christian calling, inspiring us to both understand our faith and live it out in the world.

We invite you to join us on Sunday mornings—either on our campus in the Emmaus Classroom or online via Zoom for this unique study! Zoom information can be found on our webpage:

<https://www.covenantcares.org/sunday-school/>

Join the Choir!

Rehearsals in the choir room,
Wednesday nights at 7:00pm.

Please join us!

Contact Josh Pepper for more details
josh@covenantcares.org

JOIN CHOIR!





Thank you,
God, for Connecting Us.
Thank you for neighbors,
each with needs
and gifts to share,
And for our Church,
the whole Church,
Together,
And for Jesus Christ,
Amen.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

APRIL 18 - JUNE 5, 2022



PENTECOST OFFERING

This year Covenant is participating in General Assembly's special offering for Pentecost, which has been called the birthday of the Church when believers were gifted with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. The prophet Jeremiah shares the statement: *"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, to give you a future with hope."* Our gifts to the Pentecost offering connect with God's hope for our future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults by building a life of faith.

Examples of how this fund has been used are:

1. **25% to Young Adult Volunteers** (ages 19-30) to train and equip volunteers to engage in mission in 13 sites in U.S. and around the world, and to provide assistance with medical insurance and a simple living stipend; also, to provide funds for retreats, orientation events, and counseling to help these young adults discern God's call.
2. **25% to support ministries with youth, ages 12-18** by funding the many platforms offered as a part of the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, and to support the ministry of Presbyterian Youth.
3. **10% to support "Educate a Child, Transform the World,"** a national initiative to benefit children at risk of not being welcome in traditional places or educational circumstances; such children may have autism or other disabilities.
4. **40% stays with local congregations;** some churches have provided scholarships to summer camps, collected school supplies or shoes for low-income or homeless families, contributed to a school backpack program so that low-income children get the nutritious foods they need when school is not in session.

Covenant is already at work supporting Pan American School in Kingsville, children served by House of Neighborly Service, children in Larkspur Elementary School here in San Antonio, and SAMM Transitional Living Center. Funds from this offering will aid these endeavors and our own youth. Consider giving to this fund now or on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th. Make a check payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church with Pentecost Offering in the memo line.