

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Overwhelmed by Grace, Committed to Serve”

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 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

Chad Bosse

INTRODUCTION OF REV. DR. SALLIE WATSON, General Presbyter of Mission Presbytery

***GREET ONE ANOTHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST**

***PRAISE**

“Here I Am To Worship”

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

**(Chorus) So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that You’re my God.**

**And You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.**

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created, all for love’s sake became poor. **(Chorus)**

And I’ll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.
And I’ll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross. **(Chorus)**

“King of Kings”

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light,
till from Heaven You came running. There was mercy in Your eyes.

To fulfil the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word
from a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

**(Chorus) Praise the Father, praise the Son, raise the Spirit three in one.
God of Glory, majesty, praise forever to the King of kings.**

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost,
to redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross.

For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side.
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died. **(Chorus)**

Praise forever to the King of kings.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Lucks

God's goodness is breaking into the world.

We do not expect the Spirit's movement.

God gathers in those we judged to be outsiders.

We witness this in-breaking as healing, wholeness, restoration, and peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We are a people living in sin. We are a people in need of God's vision, praying for our eyes to be opened. We are a people in need of God's reversal, praying for our hearts to be softened. We are a people in need of God's reconciliation, praying that our faces might be illumined by God's presence. Let us claim our need of God, confessing our sin together.

Gracious God, we equate our judgment with your judgment, and often consider our ways to be your ways. We define peace as the absence of disruption, holding our comfort as your aim and thinking our preferences reflect your way. Too often we act as if we are your authoritative witnesses, believing our worldview corresponds with your vision, and that our narrative contains your hope for the future. O God, dislodge us from our sinful assumptions. Forgive our selfish views. Correct us with your truth and teach us by your Spirit.

It is the Lord who opens eyes to see. It is the Lord who softens hearts to hear.

It is the Lord who returns us to God's presence. Peace, peace, peace—

you are loved. You are enough. You belong. In Jesus Christ you are restored.

Thanks be to our God forever and ever.

RESPONSE

"The Stand"

You stood before creation, eternity in Your hand.

You spoke the earth into motion, my soul now to stand.

You stood before my failure, and carried the cross for my shame.

My sin weighed upon Your shoulders, my soul now to stand.

So what can I say? And what can I do,
but offer this heart, O God, completely to You? **(Repeat)**

So I'll stand, with arms high and heart abandoned,
in awe of the One who gave it all.

I'll stand, my soul, Lord, to You surrendered.

All I am is Yours. **(Repeat)**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME

Chad Bosse

MENTAL HEALTH MOMENT

"Adult Mental Health First Aid"

Kathy Simmons

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jonah 1:1-3

Bill Lucks

Philippians 3:4b-14

Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson

MESSAGE

"Taking out the Garbage"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE & CALL

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Ecumenical)

Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—from *A Declaration of Faith* (1976)

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.

OFFERING OF GIFTS & MUSIC

Invitation to the Offering

Bill Lucks

Music

“God So Loved”

God so loved the world that He gave.

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. **(Repeat)**

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.

(Chorus) He’s risen from the dead, He is risen.

He’s high and lifted up.

Heaven and earth adore.

God so loved the world that He gave.

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.

(Sing Chorus Twice)

God so loved the world that He gave.

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.

Prayer of Dedication

***CLOSING SONG**

“Amazing Grace” No. 649, v1, 2, 3, 5

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.

‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

WE GO TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

***INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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 Vazquez
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



Adult Mental Health First Aid

Just as first aid is a critical part of physical health, so is mental health first aid critical to mental wellness. Every person can act as a mental health first aid supporter just by observing and listening, non-judgmentally, to someone who seems to be emotionally or mentally distressed. Individuals definitely can get better, recover, and use their strengths to stay well.

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

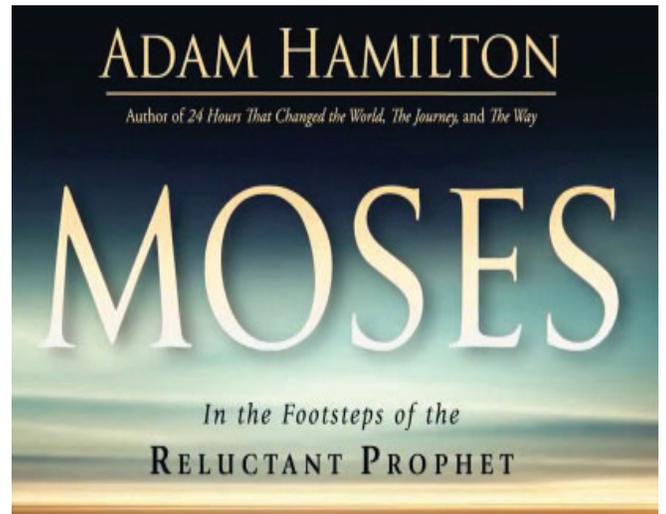
Covenant continues to offer many different opportunities to gather via Zoom for Weekly Bible Study. Beginning the week after Easter, our Weekly Small Groups will study *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet* by Adam Hamilton. Retrace the life of Moses from his modest birth and rescue as a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

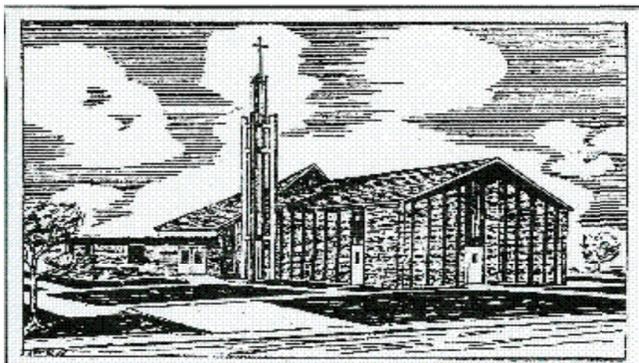
In *The Grace of Les Misérables* study, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo's story. As these imperfect and relatable characters interact, we can see how these ideals work together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

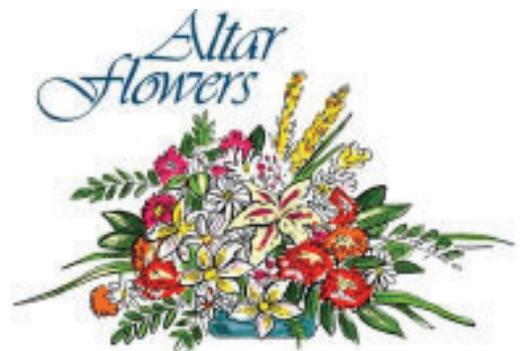
<https://www.covenantcares.org/sunday-school/>

A Special Event Celebrating the Rich History & Witness of Pilgrim Presbyterian Church

Sunday, June 5, 2022 - 4:00PM
Mission Hall @ Covenant Presbyterian Church



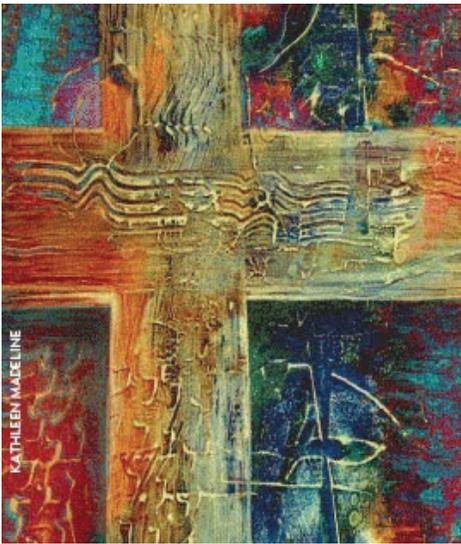
Covenant will be joining with area churches for this special celebration, which will be held in Mission Hall. Pilgrim closed in March 2020. There was a closing service at the church at that time, but only a handful of people were able to attend. This is an opportunity to celebrate and remember the impact Pilgrim had on so many people and organizations through the years. We have invited members at the time of Pilgrim's closing and also a number of long-time former members, as well as area churches, to join us. Our General Presbyter, Sallie Watson, will be celebrating with us that day. **Please plan to come back to church on Sunday afternoon on Pentecost Sunday to support and encourage the Pilgrim community, remember together God's steadfast love, goodness and faithfulness, and celebrate again the birthday of the Christian Church.** For more information, call the church office or Denise Haley.



Sign up in the Narthex to reserve Altar Flowers in 2022. This is a great way to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, or special event. It can be used to honor or remember a loved one. Flowers are \$50. Only one family can sign up per Sunday. If you have questions, contact Bethany Borak in the church office 210-342-5253.



Young at Heart invites all adults who enjoy company, food, and lots of laughter with friends to come join us for games every Friday night. The fun starts at 6:30PM. The Mission Hall door will open around 6:15PM. Please remember to wear a mask. Look forward to seeing you there!



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.