

# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*“Overwhelmed by Grace, Committed to Serve”*

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

**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

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

**\*PRAISE SONG**

*“Everlasting God”*

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord.  
We will wait upon the Lord. We will wait upon the Lord.  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord.  
We will wait upon the Lord. We will wait upon the Lord.  
Our God You reign forever; our Hope our strong Deliv’rer.

**Refrain**

**You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.  
You do not faint. You won’t grow weary.  
You’re the defender of the weak. You comfort those in need.  
You lift us up on wings like eagles.**

*“God You Reign”*

You paint the night. You count the stars and You call them by name.  
The skies proclaim, God You reign.

Your glory shines. You teach the sun when to bring a new day.  
Creation sings, God You reign.

**(Refrain) God You reign. God You reign. Forever and ever, God You reign.**

You part the seas. You move the mountains with the words that You say.  
My song remains, God You reign.  
You hold my life. You know my heart and You call me by name.  
I live to say, God You reign.

**Refrain**

Hallelujah, hallelu, hallelujah, hallelu.

**SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS**

Rebekah Hernandez & KaeLynn Hixson

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Bill Lucks

**\*RESPONSE**

*“10,000 Reasons”*

Bless the Lord, O my soul O my soul. Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME**

Martha Flores

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Exodus 32:1-14, Philippians 4:1-9

Rev. Sonja Dalglish

**SERMON**

*“Rejoice in the Lord, Always”*

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE & CALL**

**\*PRAISE**

*“Great in Power”*

Praise Him, you heavens and all that's above.  
Praise Him, you angels and heavenly hosts.  
Let the whole earth Praise Him.

Praise Him, the sun, moon and bright shining stars  
Praise Him you heavens, And waters and skies  
Let the whole earth Praise Him.

**(Refrain) Great in power. Great in glory. Great in mercy. King of Heaven.  
Great in battle. Great in wonder. Great in Zion. King over all the earth.**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

One Great Hour of Sharing

Gordon Smith

**OFFERING OF GIFTS & MUSIC**

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Sonja Dalglish

Music

*“How Could I But Love You”*

\*Response

*“Everlasting God”*

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.  
You do not faint. You won't grow weary.  
You're the defender of the weak. You comfort those in need.  
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

\*Prayer of Dedication

Bill Lucks

**\*CLOSING SONG**

*“We Are Called”* No. 749

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.  
**(Refrain) We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;  
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless, so all hatred and violence will be no more.

**Refrain**

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other, as sisters and brothers united in love.

**Refrain**

**WE GO TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD**

**\*INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

Rev. Sonja Dalglish

**\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

# Altar Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God in celebration of John Lorch's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Happy Birthday John!

Have a question about church life?

Want to join a ministry team or volunteer?

Reach out to a Session Elder for more information.

- Adult Ministry - Demarius Douthit
- Christian Education - Martha Hernandez
- Clerk of Session - Paul Watson
- Evangelism - Kathy Simmons
- Fellowship - Norma Jean Demmer
- Finance and Stewardship - Don Clark
- Maintenance and Technology - Mike Flinn
- Mission and Outreach - Bill Lucks
- Planning - Martha Wright
- Young Adults and Youth - Karl Hays
- Worship and Music - Marshall Nelson



Like life insurance, planned giving is regarded as one of our most selfless acts, because the donor cannot enjoy the benefits of the gift. It's entirely for future generations to enjoy. To paraphrase a Greek proverb, a church grows great when its members plant trees in whose shade they know they will never sit.

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Resourcing communities working to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression



Providing food to the hungry



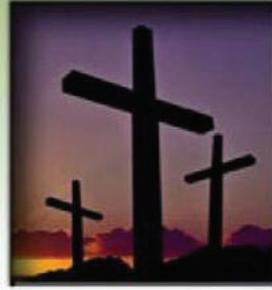
Providing relief to those affected by natural disasters

One Great Hour of Sharing - For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

For years Covenant has generously and faithfully supported OGHs ministries near and far. If you are interested in supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing program financially, please make your check out to Covenant Presbyterian Church with OGHs in the memo line.

# Holy Week Schedule



## **Maundy Thursday, April 6**

Epiphany Anglican Church and Covenant Presbyterian Church will be joining together at 6:00 p.m. for a Soup and Salad Dinner and at 7:00 p.m. for the Maundy Thursday service. This service focuses on Jesus' last meal with his disciples and his last opportunity before he dies to try to help them grasp the significance of his gift to them.

## **Good Friday, April 7**

Epiphany Anglican Church and Covenant Presbyterian Church will be joining together again at 7:00 p.m. for a Good Friday service. This service commemorates the suffering and death of Christ. This will be a Tenebrae service in which the sanctuary is progressively darkened as we follow the story of Jesus' betrayal, trial, torture, and execution through readings from the Gospel of Luke. By entering fully into the realization of what God's love for us cost him, we will be better prepared to receive the Light of Easter morning—to celebrate the joyous news of the resurrection.

## **EASTER - SUNDAY, APRIL 9**

### **Easter Sunrise Service, April 9**

Greeting the rising sun on Easter with the glorious news that "Christ is risen!" is a time-honored tradition among Christians. Our service will begin at the prayer garden in the northwest side of our campus (weather permitting) at 7:30 a.m. Should weather make it necessary, we will meet in the sanctuary for this service. Please join with members of Covenant and Epiphany Anglican (even if you're not a morning person). It will be worth getting up early on Easter!

### **Easter Breakfast**

8:45 a.m.—Come one, come all. Let us continue our celebration of the resurrection of Christ with a great time together sharing in a full fellowship breakfast. We'll begin serving at 8:45 a.m. And remember...Easter is a great time to invite a friend!

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

10:00 a.m.— All children are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt in front of the church near the large outdoor cross. Please bring your child's Easter basket and join us for this fun tradition.

### **Easter Morning Service**

At 10:30 a.m., we will gather in the sanctuary for our traditional worship service. It will be a great opportunity to praise God in the celebration of the resurrection. The joyous music will help lift our hearts and encourage us to raise our voices in song. Look forward to welcoming back family members and friends and to meeting first-time visitors. We'll look forward to seeing you then!

## Weekly Small Group Bible Study

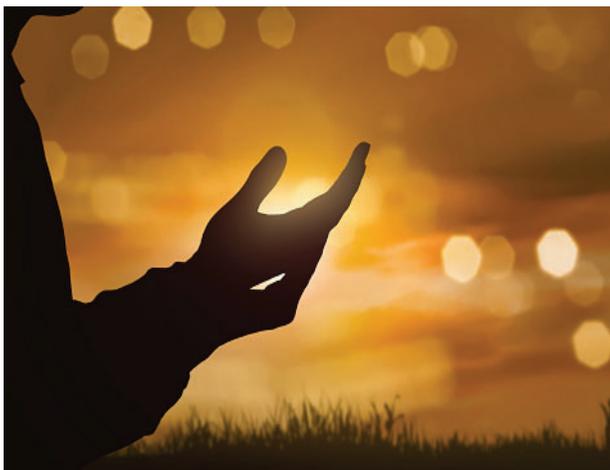
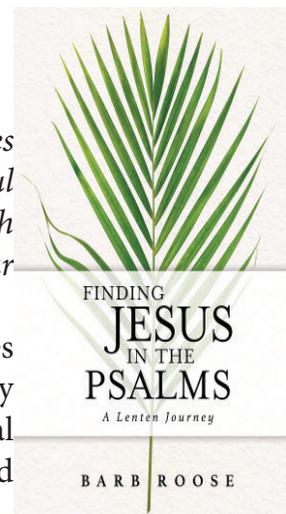
*Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey* by Barb Roose

*“The Psalms provide a perfect framework for experiencing Lent through the verses that were Jesus’s own scriptures, offering both him and us strength and wisdom in a painful and redemptive season. The Book of Psalms hums with the heartbeat of our humanity with divinely inspired words that find purchase in the tenderest places in our hearts when our human words or wisdom fails us.”* Barb Roose

Combining an interpretation of the psalms with real life stories, this study moves through the familiar words of Psalm 23 toward the painful cries of Psalm 22 uttered by Jesus on the cross. Join us this Lent as we reflect on the life of King David and the original context of the writings, along with the connections between the psalms and the life and death of Jesus the Messiah.

Covenant has several small groups that meet each week. For this study, we encourage participants to consider purchasing the book, *Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey* by Barb Roose and reading the corresponding chapter each week.

For more information, please contact Chad Bosse ([chad@covenantcares.org](mailto:chad@covenantcares.org)).



### Adult Sunday School

***When It's Time to Confess*** led by Pastor Dan  
Emmaus Classroom @ 9:00am

Confessions aren't always about owning what we've done wrong. Sometimes in the Christian church, they're about confessing (or professing) what we believe to be true. When the church faces particularly acute challenges, it sometimes identifies the moment as a “status confessionis” —a time when the church feels the need to clarify something essential about what it means to follow Christ or be the church. In such settings, a statement may be written to share such essential truths the church “confesses” to believe.

Confessions of Faith can take many forms: brief and poetic (Brief Statement of Faith, 1983), long and systematic theology (Westminster Confession of Faith, 2nd Helvetic Confession of Faith, etc.), or relatively brief affirmations and denunciations (Theological Declaration of Barmen). Whatever its form, to become an official confession of the PCUSA, it must go through an arduous and multi-year process, somewhat akin to passing an amendment to the US Constitution. Thus, the confessional statements in our Book of Confessions are ones that have gotten broad support over a broad swath of the church.

This class will draw from the book *Presbyterian Creeds: A Guide to the Book of Confessions* by Jack Rogers and from Dan's travels to the European cities where seven of our twelve confessional documents were written.

The schedule will be as follows:

- 3/26 - Session 6: The Theological Declaration of Barmen (1934)
- 4/2 - NO CONFESSIONS CLASS (Palm Sunday Special Event)
- 4/9 - NO CONFESSIONS CLASS (Easter Sunday)
- 4/16 - Session 7: 20th Century Confessions - Confession of 1967, Belhar, Brief Statement of Faith
- 4/23 - Session 8: 20th Century Confessions continued
- 4/30 - NO CONFESSIONS CLASS (Mission Sunday)
- 5/7 - Session 9: Is now a “Status Confessionis”? If so, what does the church most urgently need to say?

**¡Reserva la Fecha! Save the Date!**

**Synod of the Sun  
Hispanic Presbyterian Women's Conference**

**Mo-Ranch, Hunt TX  
September 29 – October 1, 2023**



**Tema: "Vive con Audacia, Tenemos el ADN de Dios"**

*Salmo 139: 13-15*

**Theme: "Live Boldly, We have the DNA of God"**

*Psalms 139: 13-15*

<b>* Matriculación/Registration</b>		<b>Costo/Cost</b>
<b>Temprano/ Early:</b>	August 7 - 20, 2023	\$250.00
<b>Tarde/ Late:</b>	August 21 - 23, 2023	\$275.00
<b>Fecha de corte/ Cut-off date:</b>	Debe estar matasellado por el 23 de Agosto. Must be post-marked by August 23.	

**\*Cada iglesia debe completar la matriculación para el grupo que asistirá a la reunión.**

**Se enviarán detalles más específicos por correo electrónico en Junio.**

**Each church completes registration for the group attending the meeting.  
More specific details will be emailed in June.**





# Easter Lilies

Please place orders by April 4th.  
Feel free to email your order to the church office at: [office@covenantcares.org](mailto:office@covenantcares.org)

Make Checks Payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church & put "Easter Lilies" in the Memo Line.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Lilies (\$12 Each): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost = (Number of Lilies x \$12) \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Come Join Us for Pickleball at Covenant!

Sundays from 6:00-8:00PM  
A fun, easy, all-ages game!  
Enter through the back gym door.

### Want more info?

Contact Kathy Simmons:  
(210) 787-9789 or [Ksimmons1023@gmail.com](mailto:Ksimmons1023@gmail.com).

## WANTED: Easter Egg Candy

It's almost time for Covenant's Easter Egg Hunt! We're looking for donations of individually wrapped candy that can fit inside a plastic egg. Bring your donations to the church and drop them off in the Narthex or office by April 2nd. We'll stuff the eggs before the big event on Easter Sunday. Many thanks in advance for your generous donations!

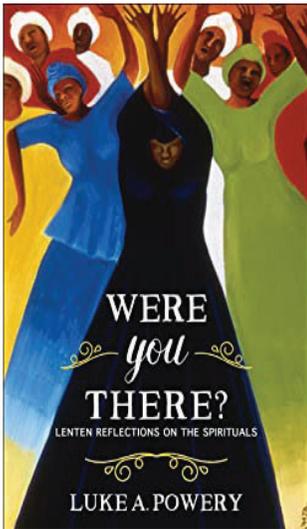
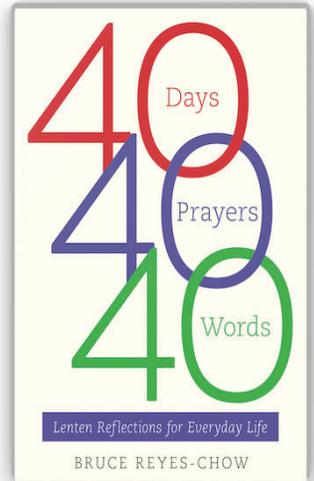


## Suggested Lenten Devotionals:

Each year, the Christian Education Team at Covenant lifts up several devotionals for our congregation to consider using during the season of Lent. Our hope is that the following devotionals will challenge and strengthen you during your Lenten journey. Each of the following devotionals are available from the PCUSA Store or from your favorite book provider.

***40 Days, 40 Prayers, 40 Word: Lenten Reflections for Everyday Life*** by Bruce Reyes-Chow

In *40 Days, 40 Prayers, 40 Words*, Reyes-Chow encourages readers to pause in the bustle of their daily lives to reflect, engage, and share during the Lenten season. Forty devotions are each framed around a word inspired by the daily lectionary readings and include a short scriptural passage, inspirational prayer, and reflection. Readers who feel too busy for daily engagement with God will appreciate Reyes-Chow's ability to speak to the blessings and burdens of everyday life in a concise, lively manner. Moreover, readers also have the ability to connect with others through interactive elements like QR codes that link to social media and provide access to additional reflections, graphics, and prayers. This unique resource expands the ways we can connect with God, and with each other, both during Lent and at any time along our journeys of faith. Follow along using the hashtag: #40wordprayer.



***Were You There?: Lenten Reflections on the Spirituals*** by Luke A. Powery

Valuable not only for their sublime musical expression, the African American spirituals provide profound insights into the human condition and Christian life. Many spirituals focus on the climax of the Christian drama, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the ways in which those events bring about the liberation of God's people.

In these devotionals for the season of Lent, Luke A. Powery leads the reader through the spirituals as they confront the mystery of Christ's atoning death and victory over the grave. Each selection includes the lyrics of the spiritual, a reflection by the author on the spiritual's meaning, a Scripture verse related to that meaning, and a brief prayer.

***Lent of Liberation: Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery***

by Cheri L. Mills

This Lenten devotional invites readers to learn more about the brutal institution of slavery and its impact on Black people in America and recognize how its evolution and legacy continue to harm their descendants in the United States today. Each of the forty devotions includes the testimony of a person who escaped slavery through the Underground Railroad, a Scripture passage, and a reflection connecting biblical and historical themes to challenge modern readers to work for liberation. Reflecting on Lenten themes of exodus, redemption, discipline, and repentance, readers, both Black and white, will be empowered for the work of racial justice.

