

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Sunday, eleven o'clock 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6, 2009

Ritual of Friendship and Congregational Opportunities

(Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.)

Please sign the attendance pads at the end of the pew and turn off cell phones.)

Gathering in God's Name

Sounding of the Hour

Prelude

"My Savior First of All"

arr. by Cindy Berry

*Call to Worship

Leader: Be rich in faith, says the God who gives us life.

People: We trust in God, who is faithful to us.

Leader: Be strong in spirit, says the God who carries us through life.

People: We trust in God, who surrounds us with love.

Leader: Be generous to one another, says the God of abundant grace.

People: We trust in God, who is the giver of every gift.

Leader: Be steadfast in your lives, says the God of wisdom.

People: We trust in God, who endures forever.

*Hymn of Praise # 18

"The Desert Shall Rejoice"

*Prayer of Confession

Leader: God blesses those who are hungry and thirsty for justice,
for they will receive it in full.

**People: But we have hungered after the pleasures,
prestige, and possessions of this temporal world.
Like Esau, we have despised our birthright
by choosing to satisfy our immediate desires.**

Leader: God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

**People: But we have often presided as harsh judges
over the lives of others.
We have been quick to place blame
on anything or anyone but ourselves.
We have avoided obligations to care for
or to help people in need.**

Leader: Lord, please show us your mercy.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us
in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response # 396 (stanza 4)

"O for a Closer Walk with God"

4. So shall my walk be close with God, Calm and serene my frame;
So pur-er light shall mark the road That leads me to the Lamb.

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Hearing the Word of God

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading pg. 604

Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23

Anthem

"Bless the Lord, O My Soul"

M. Ippolitof-Ivanof

Bless the Lord, O my soul, blessed art Thou, O Lord, Bless the Lord and forget not all His benefits. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy Name. Who redeemeth my life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness. He will not always chide: neither will He will He keep His anger forever. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

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Children's Moments

***Gateway to Worship*

Gospel Reading pg. 229

James 2:1–10, (11–13), 14–17

Sermon

Front Row Seats

Rev. Sharon Amstutz

Responding to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith pg. 15 (Ecumenical version)

The Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

*Communion Hymn # 386

"O for a World"

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Offering

Offertory

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

John B. Dykes

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the Highest.**

Words of Institution
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

Going Out to Serve

***Commitment Hymn # 434**

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

***Benediction**

***Sending Response # 535**

"Go with Us, Lord"

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.

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***Postlude**

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

arr by Cindy Berry

(For some, the Postlude serves as festive music to accompany their going back out into the world. Others prefer to remain seated and listen. Those departing can help those who listen by holding their joyful greeting of others until they reach the narthex.)

*For those who are able, please stand.

****Gateway to Worship** is our worship program for 4-year olds through first graders. The Gateway leader will take the children to their classroom in the Fellowship Hall after the Children's Moments.

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WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad you are here. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join with us in service to Christ.

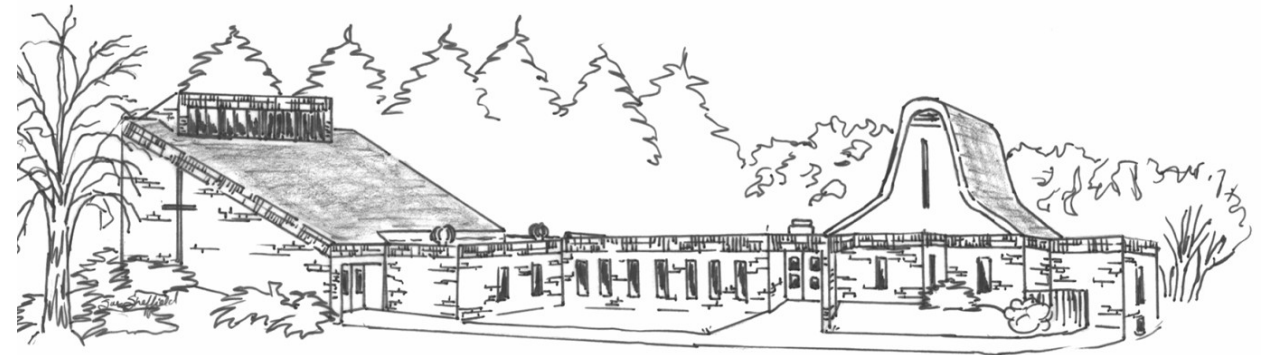
Please join us in the library immediately after worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

The **5-Cents-a-Meal Offering** will be received during the final hymn. You are asked to consider giving 5 cents for each meal you have eaten last month (or any amount you wish) to help feed those who are hungry. This offering supports both local and global hunger programs.

Today at Covenant

Morning Greeter:	Jim Starr
Liturgist:	Hal Hunter
Cantor:	Leonard Robertson
Acolytes:	Drew Amstutz & Mark Jones
Chimer:	Carolee Mabe
Gateway:	Karen Mabe
Nursery:	Joel Hillhouse
Coffee Hostesses:	Sue Crandall & Betty Maletich

"Lord, in the full assembly
I will praise you for what you have done."
Psalm 22:25



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