



August 29, 2021

10:00 a.m., Facebook LIVE

Live: www.facebook.com/FirstCovenantErie/

Recording available after live service: www.tinyurl.com/FPCCYouTube

Due to the rise in Covid Delta Variant, masks are required to be worn at all times in worship.

"Worship" is not something we watch. It is something we do. Read aloud bolded responses.

*Please share greetings and comments. Stand if you choose, where you see **

G A T H E R I N G

Ring of the Bell Tower Carillon (9:45 a.m.)

Montgomery Service

Gathering Music

"It Is Well with My Soul," arr. John Ness Beck.

Jamie Emerson

OC9 -7 Copyright 1981, 1990 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Chris Weichman

Call to Worship

Rev. Chris Weichman

We gather to praise and worship God,
the one who created us for love.

We gather to worship the true vine,
the one in whose love we abide.

We gather to worship the one who call us to new life,
the one who casts out fear.

***Hymn #14**

For the Beauty of the Earth

(page 5)

P R A Y I N G

Call to Confession

Seph Kumer

"Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
Let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Seph Kumer

O Christ, you are the true vine,
and you have made us your branches.

In your grace, we find strength,
and in your love, we are set free.

Forgive us, O God, when we do not live
as people who have been freed,
when we act as if the Easter story
did not turn the world upside down.

Forgive us, O God, when we do not live
as people who are your branches,
when we forget that we are rooted in you
and bound to one another by your spirit.

Forgive us, O Christ, our one true vine,
and teach us to abide in you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon *(responsive, please read aloud the bold print)*

Seph Kumer

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

***Passing of the Peace**

Seph Kumer

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

And also with you.

Share greetings of Christ's peace in the comment section on the Facebook livestream or share a nod, a peace sign, a wave of peace with those worshiping with you in the sanctuary.

L I S T E N I N G

First Reading *John 15:1-11*

Montgomery Service

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

Hymn # 442

Just as I Am, without One Plea

(page 6)

Children's Moment

Rev. Britney L.V. Knight

Second Reading *Deuteronomy 2:24-31, 36*

Rev. Chris Weichman

²⁴ "Proceed on your journey and cross the Wadi Arnon. See, I have handed over to you King Sihon the Amorite of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to take possession by engaging him in battle. ²⁵ This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon the peoples everywhere under heaven; when they hear report of you, they will tremble and be in anguish because of you."

²⁶ So I sent messengers from the wilderness of Kedemoth to King Sihon of Heshbon with the following terms of peace: ²⁷ "If you let me pass through your land, I will travel only along the road; I will turn aside neither to the right nor to the left. ²⁸ You shall sell me food for money, so that I may eat, and supply me water for money, so that I may drink. Only allow me to pass through on foot—²⁹ just as the descendants of Esau who live in Seir have done for me and likewise the Moabites who live in Ar—until I cross the Jordan into the land that the Lord our God is giving us." ³⁰ But King Sihon of Heshbon was not willing to let us pass through, for the LORD your God had hardened his spirit and made his heart defiant in order to hand him over to you, as he has now done.

³¹ The Lord said to me, "See, I have begun to give Sihon and his land over to you. Begin now to take possession of his land."

³⁶ From Aroer on the edge of the Wadi Arnon (including the town that is in the wadi itself) as far as Gilead, there was no citadel too high for us. The Lord our God gave everything to us.

Sermon

"Negotiating with God"

Rev. Chris Weichman

RESPONDING

Time of Reflection

“God Himself Is Present,” Joachim Neander
setting by Michael Burkhardt MSM -10-752 Copyright 1989. Morningstar Music Publishers

Jamie Emerson

Prayers of the People

Rev. Chris Weichman

God is Good... All the Time!
All the Time... God is Good!

The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

Rev. Chris Weichman

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. Amen

*Hymn #697

Take My Life

(page 7)

*Giving of Our Tithes & Offerings

Rev. Chris Weichman

*Thank you for enabling ministry using the blue **shop now** button on the church's Facebook page or
see the box on the bottom of this page.*

*Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low...Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known;
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” Text by Brian Wren, Music by Hal H. Hopson ©1989, ©1998 Hope Publishing Company CCLI License #11174474

*Benediction

Rev. Chris Weichman

*Postlude

“When in Our Music God is Glorified,” C. V. Stanford
setting by Robert A. Hobby MSM -10-757 Copyright 1994. Morningstar Music Publishers

Jamie Emerson

Get Ready for Fall

Mark your calendars! Sunday, September 12, we return to two worship services, The Chapel Service returns to McBrier Chapel at 8:30a.m. And the Sanctuary service moves to 11:00a.m. Faith Formation, from 9:30 to 10:30, returns for Adults, Children, and Youth.

Fall Faith Formation Opportunities

Adults-

Bible Study (in person) Genesis with Pastor Britney, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study (Facebook LIVE) Wednesdays, 12:00 noon, pastors lead.
Men's Bible Study (Zoom) with Pastor Chris, Thursday, **September 9**, 7:30 a.m.

**GIVE
PLUS⁺**

3 Ways to give tithe or offering... THANK YOU!

1. Use the QR code at right.
2. Go to www.firstcovenanterie.org and click the **GIVE NOW** button at the bottom of the homepage.
3. Mail your check to:



INVITATION TO MINISTRY

Welcome! to everyone joining us for worship in the sanctuary and on Facebook LIVE. Masks must be worn at all times in the church building. Updated in-person worship details can be found on page 10 of this bulletin.

***Join Us For Fellowship After Worship** Join us under the belltower after worship. Catch up with friends or meet someone new. Today the Campus Ministry Team invites you to visit the Kirk House gardens as well.

Welcome, Gannon Students! If you are joining us for worship today in-person or on Facebook LIVE, we are glad you are with us! We have missed students during this pandemic! May this be a great in-person semester for you! You are always welcome here for anything the church offers. We LOVE students. Please share your contact information with us so we can be in touch: office@firstcovenanterie.org

A new job for Rachel Moldovan The Personnel Committee has accepted Rachel's resignation as she leaves us for a new work opportunity. The church is grateful for her two years as Campus Minister/Kirk House director. Pastor Britney and Marlene Spires (Campus Ministry Chairperson) met with the current Kirk House students for dinner this past week, and the search for a new campus minister has begun. This is a good time to remember that each of us is a campus minister and we can all do our part to welcome and engage the students that surround the church building!

Gannon S.O.S. Gannon has had an influx of global masters' students this semester, and they are struggling to find housing in walking distance to campus. Do you live near the school and have a "room for rent"? Or do you know a landlord with an apartment for rent that could be helpful? If so, please reach out to Seph Kumer at 814.566.0287.

Share TGIF (Thank God It's Franks) outdoors with Gannon students in September. Friday nights, weather permitting, 10 p.m. to midnight, in the south church parking lot near 7th and Myrtle. Your help is appreciated greeting and welcoming Gannon students with bottled water, hot dogs and veggie burgers. If you can join the fun, let Richard Sheasley know: rsheasley@gmail.com

Church Work Day September 18 Work alongside a small team of Gannon volunteers on Saturday morning, September 18, from 9 a.m. to noon to spruce up the church grounds for fall. This is Gannon "GIVE Day", when students and staff share their energy and time across Erie. Great chance to meet/welcome students. Great chance to thank them for their assistance twice a year in this way. Can you assist in some way? Contact Matt Allen from the Campus Ministry team at matthew.L.allen@gmail.com

Are you good at talking and listening? Be a "Conversation Partner" Meet once a week for one half hour with a Gannon University ESL (English as a Second Language) student...at Gannon, indoors or outside. Pick a subject to talk about each week (family life, school, careers, Erie, holidays, food, sports, hobbies, etc.); develop open-ended questions. You get to know a student and their culture. Students get to know an American and their culture--plus practice conversational English! Once students are proficient in English they can begin their academic studies! One semester commitment. Contact Seph Kumer (text or leave message) at 814.566.0287.

Erie County CROP Hunger Walk On Sunday, September 26th, First Covenant will once again participate in the CROP/Hunger Walk. This year we will walk in the neighborhood due to Covid-19. First Covenant has a rich history of being a leader in this cause. Please help us keep this tradition alive by generously sponsoring those who walk for FPCC. Donations will be received in the Church Office and sponsor forms can be mailed to you or donate online at www.crophungerwalk.org. Tim Tracy, Derick Sweet and Bill Tauber can address your questions regarding the CROP/Hunger Walk. For more information see the September *Chimes*.

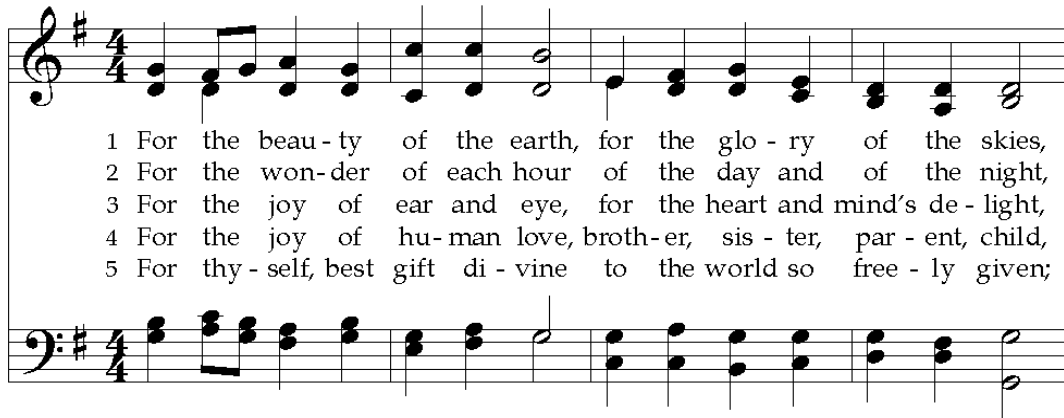
Cantor Volunteers needed as we move into the Fall we are in need of volunteers to lead us in the singing of the hymns during worship. Practice provided before the service on Sundays. Please contact Monty Service (montgomery.service@firstcovenanterie.org) if you are interested or have any questions.

Couches Do you have a gently used couch you can donate to the church? We are looking for several couches for the youth room and the Kirk House. Please contact Britney Knight: britney.knight@firstcovenanterie.org

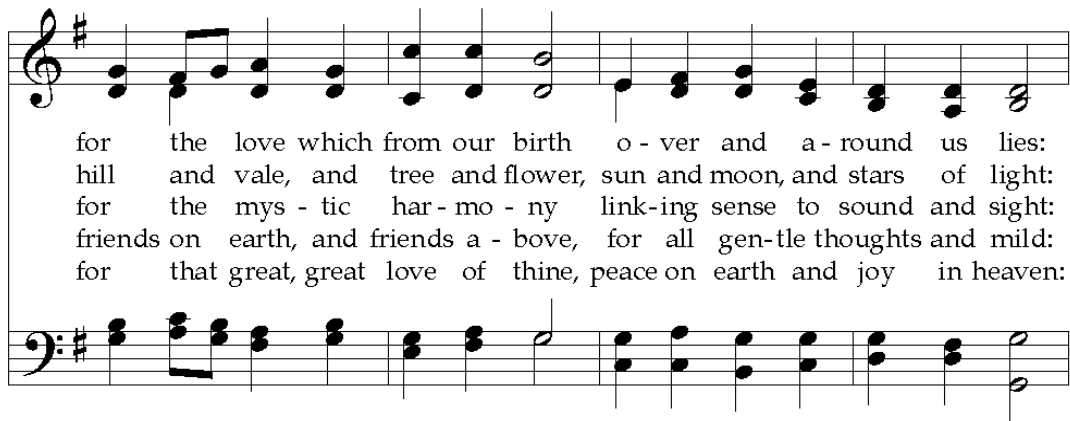
***All Fall plans are Covid permitting**

For the Beauty of the Earth

14



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain


Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

TEXT: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX
7.7.7.7.7.7

442 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,
 4 Just as I am, thy love un-known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise
 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

come to thee,
 in, with - out,
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!
 thine a - lone,

Take My Life

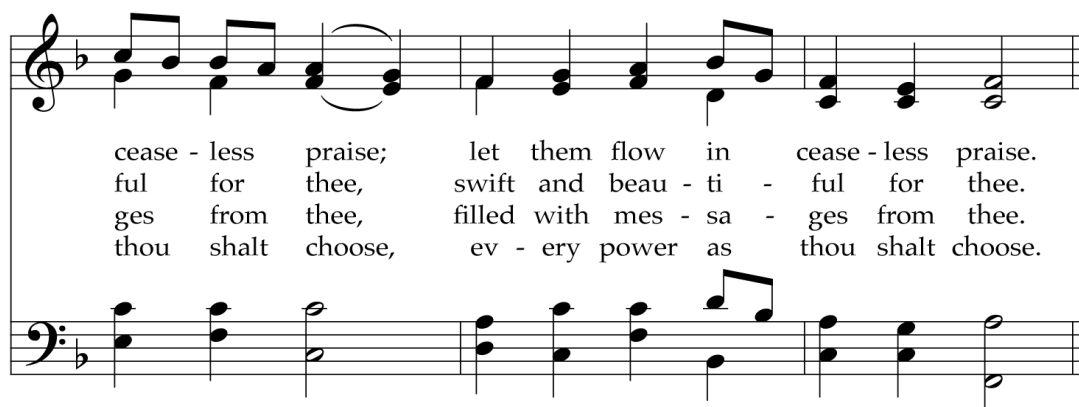
697



1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as



cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

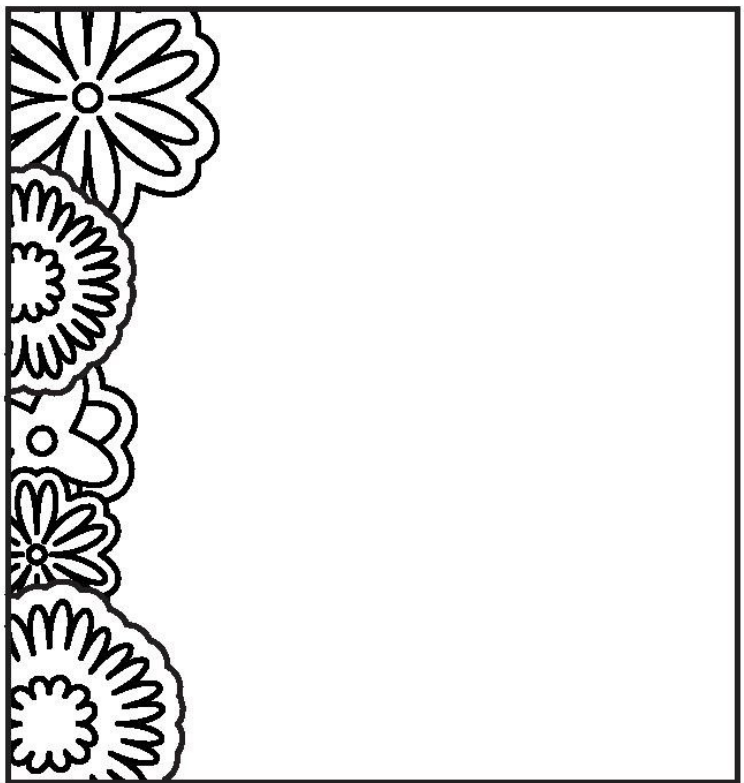
5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne,
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee,
 ever, only, all for thee.

This hymn of consecration radiates from the repeated word "take," resulting in a remarkably full survey of a person's attributes and possessions and giving weight to the "all" at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.

FINISH ^{the} DRAWING

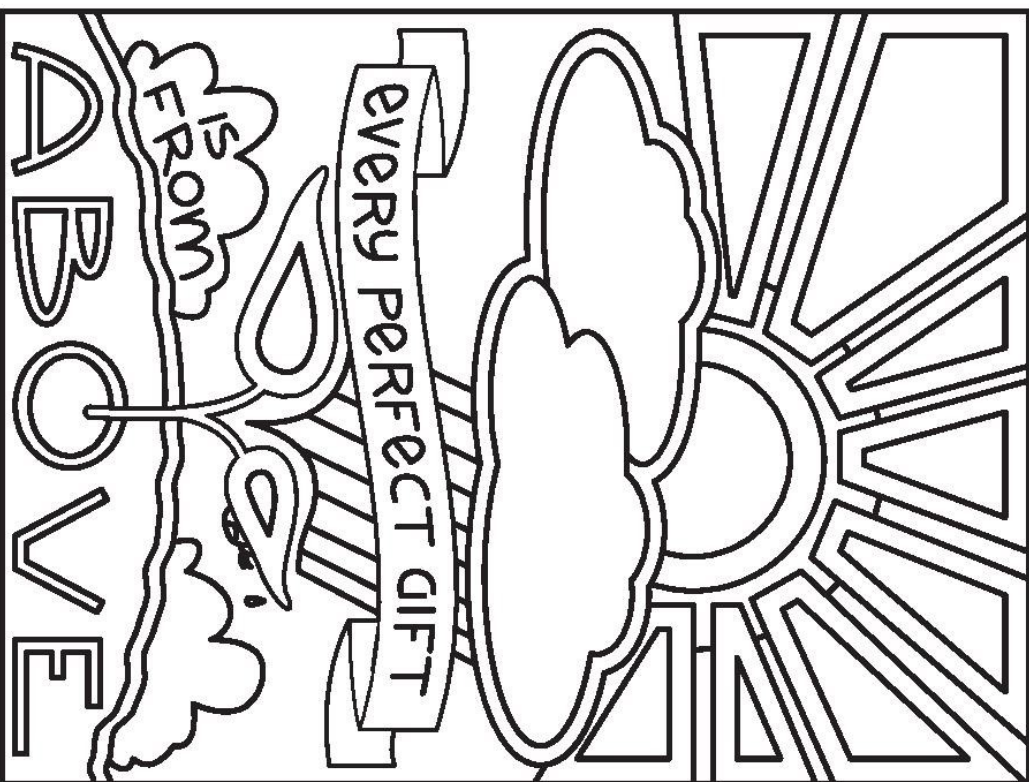
Song of Solomon 2 describes the joy of love and new life! It talks about flowers blooming, birds singing, and the love of connection between people. Finish the drawing of this scene and add things that remind you of love and new life.



Suggested for use on August 29, 2021 based on the RCL.
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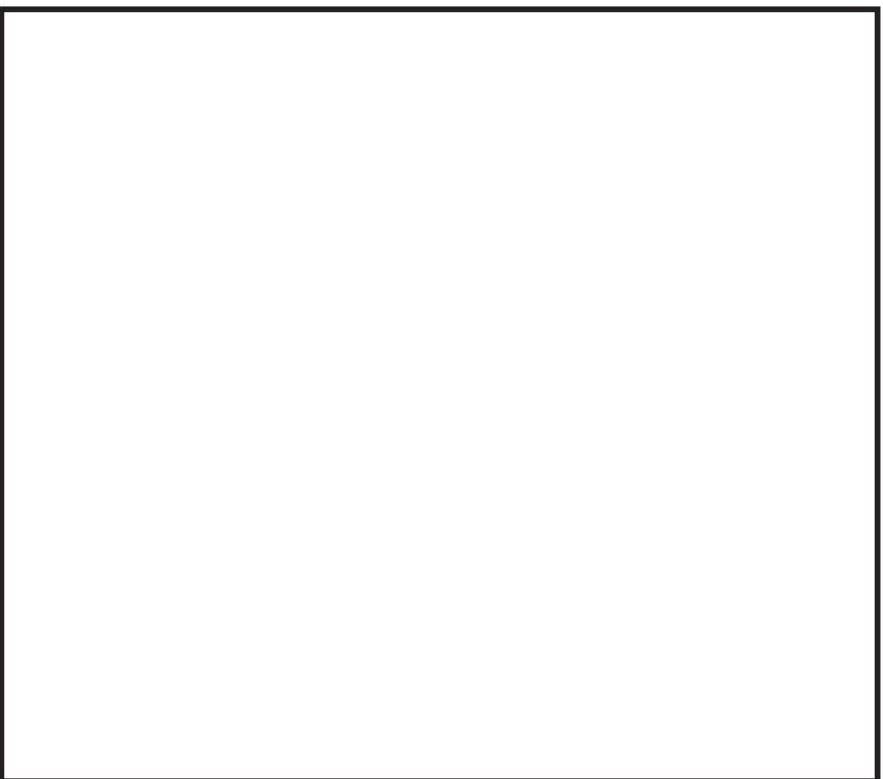
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9, James 1:17-27.



DRAW IT

James 1 says we must not just talk about how God wants us to live, we need to act! You might show kindness to someone who was unkind to you, instead of only saying, "love your enemies." You might help your baby brother instead of just saying, "love your neighbor." Draw a picture of you following what God says through your actions.



WORDSEARCH

Try to find the words from Psalm 45 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

N F P P E V B K O W S R G I D
 C W G G N E Q L G L Q I S O S
 S Y Q N O U Q D E Y L G W T E
 C R A I R G L U S S T H Z E A
 R O E K H N Y N E P S T K N Q
 I J C E T O D O G E N E E D A
 B F A K M T R J F E N O D N I
 E M L U L E S D M N H U Y R
 J F A L T G H U H A E S F O R
 B A P Y R L R T L X A N B U W
 N A R A W T I E F O R E V E R
 M Q C O S K W C V I T S X V I
 W E S N H O M S K O G S T W C
 N G I W U N P N L O L R N Z G
 G L A D N E S S M F E I R R C

HEART	FOREVER	ROBE
THEME	THRONE	INSTRUMENT
KING	GOD	PEN
TONGUE	LOVE	SCRIBE
GRACE	RIGHTEOUSNESS	PALACE
BLESSED	GLADNESS	QUEEN

Pandemic In-Person Worship Protocols *(updated August 10, 2021)*

It is good to once again have the option to worship together in the sanctuary!

Full vaccinations for Erie County residents continue to increase. Daily new case counts and hospitalizations are declining. Thank God! Warmer weather allows for open doors and ample ventilation in the sanctuary.

Our worship protocols listed below were developed after consultation with Dr. Nadworny and the Erie County Health Department and they will be incrementally adjusted as the situation permits.

The more vaccinated we are, the more protocols can be loosened.

LATEST UPDATE

- **Masking. Distancing. Pews. Seating. Due to the rise in Covid Delta Variant** Masking is no longer optional. Masks must be worn at all times. We will continue to practice social distancing. Some pews are blocked off with chairs to allow for 6-foot distancing between rows. The centers of available pews have a 6-foot “no seating” section marked off. Seating will be at the ends of each available pew. **Volunteers needed to welcome and guide worshipers:** chris.weichman@firstcovenanterie.org

Here's what to expect:

- **Facebook LIVE-streaming** of services will continue. Attend online or in-person: it is your choice based on your comfort. If you attend in-person, keep this in mind. Talking / noises will be picked up by mics.
- **Complete an attendance / health assessment form in advance—each time you attend.** Find the form on page 14 to cut out and bring with you to turn in at the entry door. You'll also find it in the Chimes newsletter and each worship bulletin. Copies are also available at the entry door. In addition to stating you are feeling well, this form will register in-person attendance and be used if contact tracing is necessary.
- **Limited entry/exit doors.** There will be ONE entry to the sanctuary at 9:30: *Zahniser Coat Room* doors. These doors are at the northeast corner of the church, on the east side (by the Wright House). They enter into the Narthex. The glass “breezeway” doors nor any others will be available for entry. Exit doors will be the same *Zahniser Coat Room* doors and the nearby *Fish Chapel* doors. Other doors will be opened for ventilation purposes and emergency exit only.
- **One-Way traffic lane.** For drop-off and pick-up by car, the lane along the east side of the church will be one-way. One-way into the parking lot from 6th Street BEFORE the worship service. And then as worship concludes it will flip to one-way OUT from the parking lot to 6th Street.
- **Bulletins. Hymnals. Pew pads.** You will be handed a worship packet as you enter. It is the same as what is emailed weekly, containing all bible texts and music. Nothing touched by multiple people will be used: hymnals, bibles, pew pads are stored until further notice. Attendance is received via the health forms.
- **Singing and spoken responses.** Singing is only permitted with masks. Monty will continue as our cantor. Quietly spoken liturgy responses and unison prayers *are* permitted.
- **Narthex bathrooms only.** Only the two bathrooms in the narthex will be available. The rest of the building will remain locked-off. Make a final pit stop at home before leaving.
- **Communion, offering.** On first Sundays you will be handed a communion kit with wafer and juice. Or you may bring your own elements from home. Dispose of packaging as you exit. Offering will be received as you exit. Or continue to give via the church website, the *Give-Plus* app, or U.S. mail.

During a pandemic nothing is risk-free.

Indoor, in-person worship participation, even with all of the protocols and precautions outlined above, still bears the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

In-Person Worship Attendance Form

Please print. Hand-in at entrance to sanctuary. For health screening and contract tracing purposes only. Thank you.

Name _____ Worship Date _____

Phone number _____ Vaccinated? YES NO OTHER

Experiencing any of the following: Shortness of breath, cough, fever, chills, body aches, loss of sense of smell or taste, headache, nausea, vomiting? YES NO

In the last 14 days...

have you been within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more with anyone that has tested positive for Covid? YES NO

have you been tested, with a positive result, for Covid-19? YES NO

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