

The
**Church of the
Covenant**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Service of Worship
for the Lord's Day

*Creation Care
Sunday*



Gathering

The McGaffin Carillon

George Leggiero, Carillon

Organ Prelude

Oziah Wales, The Chancel Organ

Symphony no. 2 in E minor, Mvt. 4. Cantabile

Louis Vierne

Greeting

Rev. Jessie MacMillan

Introit

Chancel Choir

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Psalm 148

Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."
Heaven and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty King."
Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;
Sun and moon, uplift your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!

* *Call to Worship*

Church, where do you see God?

**We see God in the wide reach of sky,
in the towering height of mountains, in the depths of the sea,
and in the vividness of flowers.**

Church, where else do you see God?

**We see God in early morning sunrises, in the quiet
after a snow, in the reaching of rivers and tributaries,
and in the stars that light the night.**

And in your seeing, what do you know?

We know that God is here, and we know that God is good.

Let us worship the God of creation!

In Our Hands

Lauren Wright Pittman

WELCOME

Convinced of God's grace, the Church of the Covenant seeks to be a welcoming spiritual home, live God's inclusive love, express Christ's compassion, and do justice in the world.

CHILD CARE

Child care is provided for infants, toddlers, and pre-K children in our Crèche. The Crèche is located on the second floor of the Education Wing. Infants and toddlers may arrive prior to the service. Children pre-K through 5th grade may leave after *A Time for Young Disciples* to go to the Crèche.



An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use please switch your hearing aid to 'T'.

OUR LITURGIST is
Ann Harlan.

Ann and her husband Ron Neill have been members of the Church for over 25 years. Ann is a retired lawyer and enjoys biking and golf in her free time. Ann has served on Session and lives with her husband and puppy Atticus nearby in Cleveland Heights. Ann has many favorite things about the community she enjoys at the Covenant, including Jessie's preaching, the music program, the Cache, and all of the amazing volunteers who make the church work.

Call to Confession

Ann Harlan, Liturgist

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, we have lost our way.

In the beginning, humanity was instructed to care for creation.

However, in pursuit of our own wealth and efficiency,
we have done the opposite.

The oceans are heavy with plastic.

The ice caps are melting by the hour.

Animals and plants are treated as a means to an end.

Corporations fill the atmosphere with pollution.

Policies and practices are slow to change.

Forgive us, O God.

Bring us back to the garden.

Fill our hearts with compassion for your world.

**Show us where we can make a difference,
and help us to see your fingerprints in every glimpse
of the natural world.**

With hope in our hearts for a better day, we pray:

Amen

Silent Confession of Sin

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, when it comes to creation care, we have a lot to confess. But even here, even now, God's grace for us is like a mighty rushing stream. So trusting in God's unrelenting mercy, may we be inspired to action. Join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

Just as flowers that bloom after the fire, there is nothing that God cannot redeem.

We are known. We are loved. We are made new.

So may we roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty

Continued

Today

*Sunday Seminar,
Dowd Commons, 11:30*

What does it mean to be an Earth Care Congregation
The Church of the Covenant was certified as an Earth Care Congregation (ECC). The certification recognizes our Church's commitment to caring for God's Creation. In his seminar *Tom Denbow*, will provide context for why creation care matters, provide the context for certification, and explore ideas for actions we can take to continue to demonstrate our commitment to stewardship of God's creation.

GATHER

We gather to worship God on the Lord's Day (Sunday), because the Gospels testify that Jesus rose from the dead early on the first day of the week.

with the work of justice,
with the work of compassion,
with the work of mercy.
Thanks be to God for this new day!
Alleluia! Amen.

* *Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to the Father,+
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

+ *Or you may sing: "Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, the Spirit,
Three in One;"*

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture **Job 12:7-10**

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

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Anthem

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded

Chancel Choir

(Hymn 242)

Day of delight and beauty unbounded, tell the news,
the gospel spread!
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor, praise Christ risen
from the dead!
Sing of the sun from darkness appearing; sing of the seed
from barren earth greening;
sing of creation, alleluia!

MUSIC NOTES

The organ prelude for today's service is a movement from one of the organ symphonies of French composer Louis Vierne, a preeminent figure of the 19th and 20th century French organ tradition and the titular organist of Notre Dame de Paris until his death in 1937. Vierne wrote a total of six organ symphonies, large-scale, multi-movement compositions for the instrument that make use of its variety of orchestral colors. The meditative, winding *Cantabile* is taken from his second symphony, that Claude Debussy described upon its premier as "remarkable" and "ingenious." It uses a cyclical structure in which all movements share related musical themes. Today's organ postlude is also taken from a multi-movement French work, this time from the 17th century composer Jacques Boyvin, who also worked as the organist at St. Rouen. The fiery *Grand Dialogue* is an exemplar of its form and genre, coming at the end of his *Suite de Troisième Ton*, one of 16 liturgical organ suites that he published during his life. In total, these suites comprise 120 individual pieces of music. Both Boyvin's suite and Vierne's symphony will be performed in their entirety by our music intern **Oziah Wales** during his Sunday Artist Recital on May 12th.

Sing of the stream from Jesus' side flowing; sing of the saints in water made holy;
sing of salvation, alleluia!

Sing now of mourning turned into dancing; sing now the mystery, hope of our glory;
sing with thanksgiving, alleluia!

Sing now of fasting turned into feasting; sing the Lord's favor lasting forever;
sing, all things living, alleluia!

Time for Young Disciples

Rev. Robin Craig

Departing Music

These Treasured Children

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Hymn 487, verse 5

**Then, tender God, each child embrace;
God give them blessings, grant them grace.
Surprise them, God, with wonders still,
And gently guide them to your will.**

Scripture **John 15:1-8**

NT page 109

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Vines and Branches

Rev. Jessie MacMillan

* *Affirmation of Faith*

**We believe in a creating God who delights in the Earth and calls it good.
We believe in the Holy Spirit who moves through creation
like a mighty rushing wind.
We believe in Jesus of Nazareth
who calmed the seas and told stories of mustard seeds, birds, and valleys.
We believe that humanity is undeniably intertwined with creation,
and that creation is undeniably intertwined with God.
Therefore, we believe our faith calls us to care for creation: to plant flowers,
to speak tenderly to animals, to thank the Earth for her bounty, to clean the streams,
to protect the forests, and to live like we are standing on holy ground, because we are.
Amen.**

* Hymn 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

Earth Care Congregation Presentation

Keith Miller - Earth Stewardship Action Network
Presbytery of the Western Reserve

Prayers of the People

Rev. Robin Craig

Announcements and Celebration of Community

Rev. Jessie MacMillan

Invitation to Offering



Offertory

Travis Guillory, tenor

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

[Click here to visit the church's online giving page](#)

* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* Hymn 20

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

* *Charge and Benediction*

Organ Postlude

Oziah Wales, The Newberry Organ

Grand Dialogue à 4 Chœurs from Suite de Troisième Ton

Jacques Boyvin

* Please stand as you are able

Our ushers today are: *Marilyn and Chris Langmack.*

The custodians on duty are: *Damytrez Vazquez.*

The audio/visual technician today is: *Gina Yang.*

We welcome everyone who is joining us for worship online on Sundays and throughout the week. We're thankful that our congregation is expanded through digital ministry!

Complete announcements are available in the weekly E-NEWS and [COVENANT LIFE](#). Contact the office to sign up.



Contact One of Our Pastors

To schedule an appointment, call the office at 216-421-0482, or email Pastor Jessie at Pastor@Covenantweb.org or Pastor Robin at rcraig@covenantweb.org.

The Flowers In The Chancel Urn are given to the glory of God, and in memory of *Stephen Harlan*, by his daughter *Ann Harlan*.

We Keep in our Prayers: Zoe Ann Brown, Cary Arden, Venerine Branham, Corky Carl, Joan Drushel, Sonia Golden, Min Gressley (Dave Gressley's mother), Ruth Hatcher, Fritz Haiss, Patrick Hoover (Ann Williams's nephew), Conor Joyce (Kathy Farkas's nephew), David Keltner, Mike Maldonado, Reathel McWhorter, Cathy Miller, Richard (Dick) Miller, Lois Miller (Nessa Gressley's mother), Nancy Miller (Nessa Gressley's sister), Susan Moyer (Jonathan Moyer's mother), Nicole Murray, Tonia Myers, Crystal Pryor (Nicole Murray's daughter), David Nelson (Suchi Nelson's brother), Diane Papp, Mark Perrings and family, Gabriel (Jenny Conner's grand-nephew), and Echo (grandson of Barb Clint's friend), and North Presbyterian Church.

We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, or homebound and for patients, family, and staff in surrounding hospitals.

This Week at Covenant (April 28– May 4)

Today: Child Care, Crèche, 9:30 am;

Sunday School, Crèche, Infants –Age 6, 9:30 am;

Carillon and Organ Prelude, 9:45 am;

Worship, Sanctuary, 10:00 am;

Reception, Reception Room, 11:00 am;

Swahili Service, Yost Chapel, 11:00 pm;

Sunday Seminar, *What does it mean to be an Earth Care Congregation*, Dowd Commons, 11:30 am;

Sunday School, Ages 7–11, Interfaith/Prayer Room, 11:30 am;

Sunday School, Ages 12+, Living Room, 11:30 am;

Cleveland Guitar Orchestra Rehearsal, Van Horn Choir Room, 1:15 pm;

UPCaM Dinner Church, Dowd Commons, 6:00 pm.

Monday: Parking Lot Task Group, Zoom, 10:30 am;

Book Club: *An Altar in the World*, Meeting Room, 12:00 pm.

Tuesday: Staff Meeting, Office, 9:30 am;

Cache, Lower Level, 10:00 am;

Tuesday Noon Organ Plus Concert, *Kingsley Wood*, organ, Sanctuary, 12:00 pm;

Membership Cultivation Meeting, Meeting Room/Zoom, 12:30 pm.

Wednesday: Women Bible Study, Meeting Room, 10:30 am;

Bible Study Young Adults, Library, 12:00 pm;

12 Steps to Freedom, Beckwith Hall, 5:30 pm;

Deacon's Meeting, Meeting Room/Zoom, 6:30 pm.

Thursday: Midday Prayer, Zoom, 11:00 am;

Makers Space, Crèche, 2:30 pm;

Beckwith Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Beckwith Handbell Room, 6:15 pm;

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7:30 pm.

Friday: Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, *Keiran Cantilina*, 12:15 pm.

Saturday: Concert: *BlueWater Chamber Orchestra*, Sanctuary, 7:30 pm.

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MORE LIGHT

PRESBYTERIANS

Seeking the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Go to www.mlp.org for more information.



The Church of the Covenant Staff

Pastoral

Covenant Pastor: Reverend Jessie MacMillan

Executive Assistant to The Pastor/Church Secretary: Sarah Andexler

Pilgrim in Residence: Rev. Robin Craig

Coordinator of Ministries to Students & Young Adults: Katherine Chilcote

Music and Programs

Music Director & Children/Youth Music: Matthew Garrett, PhD

Organist & Associate Music Director: Jonathan Moyer, DMA

Handbells & Associate Music Director: Michael Peters, PhD

Music Intern: Oziah Wales

Audio Visual Services Manager: Ken Wendt, DMA

Carillonneur: George Leggiero

Assistant Carillonneur: Keiran Cantilina

Music Librarian: Jennifer Conner, DMA

Administration and Operations

Administrative Services Manager: Willie Howard

Manager of Finance & Operations: Este Pozza

Communications Manager: Dennis Matz

Technology Coordinator: Michael Peters

Website Manager: JW Keckley

Custodian: Shannon James

Custodian: Damytrez Vazquez

Custodian: Pela Abumba Almasi



The Church of the Covenant
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Announcements

Annual Meeting on May 5

Mark your calendar for the **annual meeting of the congregation on Sunday, May 5**, following worship. Your nominating committee will present its slate of officers for session, trustees, deacons, and next year's nominating committee for your vote. All are welcome to attend, though voting is limited to active members of the congregation. Covenant's annual report, covering May 2023 through May 2024, will be available at the meeting.

Nominating Committee

The Church of the Covenant Nominating Committee has been hard at work over the past two months and is nearing the end of its meetings. We still need another Session member for the Class of 2027 and three At-large members for the 2025 Nominating Committee. If you are interested or know of someone the Committee might approach, please contact *Anne de Coningh* at tedanne98@gmail.com or call/text 216-337-1797. Thank you so much.

Spring To It And Have Tea With Us!

Please join us, *The Ad Hoc Tea Ladies*, on **Saturday, May 18**, in Dowd Commons from 1 to 3 to celebrate Spring and share Buckingham Palace Garden Party Tea, sandwiches, scones and sweets. Reservations are required; we would appreciate hearing from you as early as possible so we can plan for lots of great food for all. The cost is \$10 for those 15 and over and \$5 for those under 15. We will be charging \$15 for those registering after **Sunday, May 12**. Payment can be made in the office.



Cordially yours, *Jean Ganger*.

Mark Your Calendars

Habitat Faith Build - **Saturday, May 18, Saturday, August 24, Saturday, September 28, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Join us again this year to help build houses through the *Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity's Faith Build*. We will be working to help build a new home, and spruce up the neighborhood in the Buckeye-Woodhill area on the east side of Cleveland. If you are interested, please contact Jim Prince at princeco4@aol.com for further information.

New Phone System!

The Church of the Covenant has a new phone system that brings upgraded features for the staff as well as enhancements for after-hours callers. During business hours, Sarah or Willie will answer incoming calls as usual. If they are not available to take your call and after business hours, calls are routed to a modern auto-attendant that offers menu access to worship service information, the Pastoral Staff, and multiple other areas of church activity. There is a dial-by-name option to reach individual staff, or staff extension numbers can be dialed directly. Staff extension numbers have changed. Please contact Sarah by email (sandexler@covenantweb.org) or by calling the church office (216-421-0482) to receive a pdf list of the new staff extensions. Printed copies are also available in the church office. In addition, the new phone system, allows the church to save on the monthly cost.

BlueWater Chamber Orchestra Concert

BlueWater Chamber Orchestra finishes its 2023-24 *"Season of Superb Soloists,"* on **Saturday May 4, 2024**, with a performance featuring renowned guitarist Jason Vieaux. Entitled *Jason Vieaux Plays Vivaldi*, the program showcases Mr. Vieaux in two works for guitar and strings, Vivaldi's *Concerto in D Major, RV93*, and the recently written *How to Love* by Israeli composer Avner Dorman. A collaboration with Cleveland Classical Guitar Society, the concert takes place at **7:30 p.m.** at The Church of the Covenant.



A Weekend of Special Concerts

Saturday, May 11, 2:00 pm

Covenant soprano soloist Rachel Rose and Friends present a recital of Classical and Romantic music from the sacred, art song, and operatic repertoire.

Sunday, May 12, 4:00 pm

Sunday Artist Series

Music Department Intern Oziah Wales presents Louis Vierne's complete *Organ Symphony No. 2*.

Children and Youth Singers | Youth Sunday | May 19, 2024

Calling all parents and guardians of Covenant's young children (ages 7-11) and youth (middle school and high school students). *Dr. Matthew Garrett* will be leading children and youth singers in musical preparation for **Youth Sunday, May 19**. Singing rehearsals will be held during the Sunday School hour in the Education Wing. To learn more about this musical opportunity, contact Dr. Garrett: mgarrett@covenantweb.org Sunday Rehearsals: **April 28, May 5, May 12** at 12:00 pm, **Saturday Rehearsal: May 11** at 10:00 am.

Covenant will celebrate the children and youth of our church during the 10:00 am **Youth Sunday** worship service. Children and youth will help lead this worship service through a combination of scripture, their own shared stories, and the message through music. Parents and guardians will need to bring participating children and youth to church at **9:00 am on May 19th** for service preparation. If transportation is a need, please indicate this to one of the Sunday School leaders, so we can get permission forms signed and rides arranged.



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