

We Offer Our Gifts and Prayers

Offertory Prayer and Offering of our Gifts

Each week at Covenant we receive a monetary offering to support the mission and ministry of the church. This morning's offering will support the Tuition Assistance Fund, which help support families who otherwise would still not be able to meet the financial obligations of Christian education.

Offertory Song: "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" LUYH 457
soloist sings st.1, congregation sings st.2-4

We Share Our Joys & Concerns and Pray for One Another

We are Sent with God's Blessing

*Blessing Song: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" LUYH 946:1

*Benediction

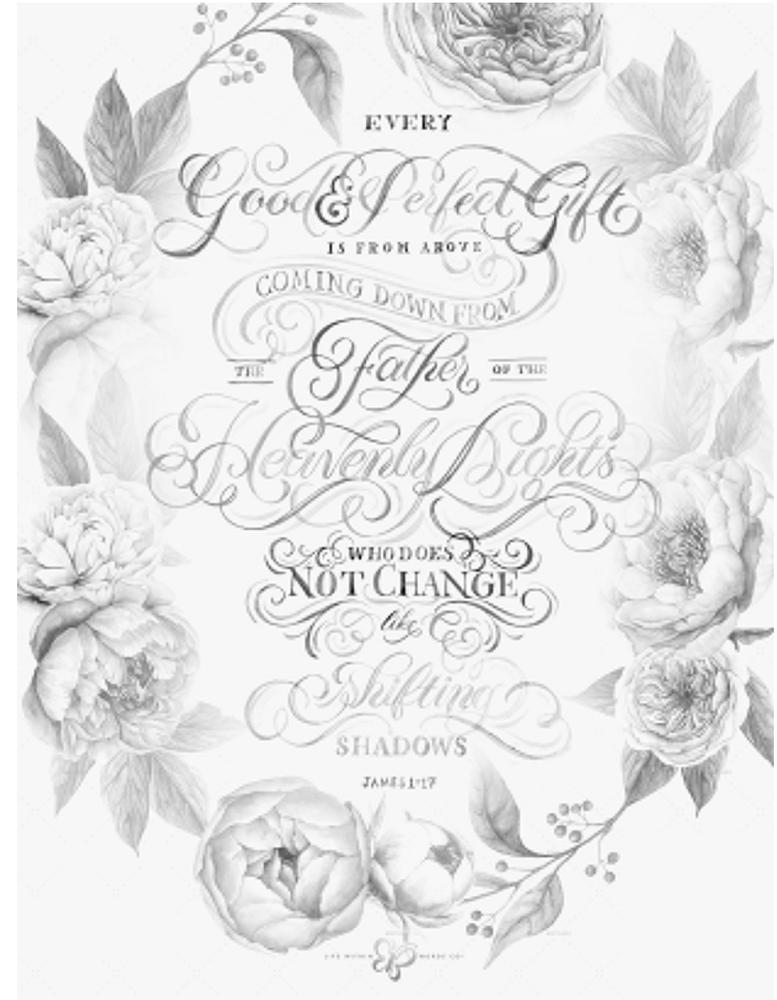
*Closing Song: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" LUYH 946:2

Worship Participants

Pastor: Rev. Aldon Kuiper ♦ Piano: Mike Janssen ♦ Guitar: Laremy DeVries ♦ Bass: Derek Friend
 Drums: Caleb Smit ♦ Vocalists: Amie Smit, Ryan Zonnefeld ♦ Worship Leaders: Zonnefeld family
 Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ♦ Projection: Marty Vander Plaats ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Ordinary Time

June 24, 2018



Ordinary time refers to the Sundays between Pentecost and Advent, a season in the liturgical year of growth in the life of the church.

Creator God, garden my life—turn it over, cultivate it, and make it ready for gospel seeds to take root. And in quiet darkness let the gospel do its work, slow but powerful, stirring up life in my heart, increasing joy, strengthening all your graces, until shoots of new life rise and good fruit bursts forth on the branches of my life, a life beautiful for you and a blessing to others. Amen. (Prayer from Seeking God's Face by Philip F. Reinders)

† Bulletin cover art by Christina Chahyadi

God Gathers Us for Worship

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Let us worship God.

“He is our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.”

Let us confess with our mouths, “Jesus is Lord,”
and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead.

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Let us call upon our true God, believing him in our hearts,
confessing him with our mouths, worshiping him in spirit and in truth.

*Song of Praise: “Eternal Spirit, God of Truth” LUYH 641

*God Greet Us, We Greet One Another

*Song of Praise: “Our God” LUYH 580

We Are Renewed in God’s Grace

Prayer of Confession with “Don’t Be Afraid” LUYH 429

God, O God, your people have always had their fears. So we come to you in humility and with honesty, naming our own: Lord, we fear the future. We wonder what is coming next. Some of us wonder if the path we are on is indeed the right one. Some of us wonder if there will be a place for us when we finish school. Some of us are afraid to make decisions for fear it will be the wrong one. We see unrest around us and are uncertain of the coming days. *(sing refrain)*

Lord, we fear the pain that comes with illness and broken bones and aging. Some of us wonder how we’re going to make it through more treatment and medication. Some of us wonder how we can possibly face chronic illness. Some of us wonder if prayers for healing even reach your throne. Physical pain frightens us. *(sing refrain)*

Lord, as a church, we wonder about our ministries and programs. What if they don’t “work”? What if outreach and faith formation don’t happen? We fear the dependence we have to have on your Spirit to be the one to breathe life into Christians and non-Christians. *(sing refrain)*

(continued on next page)

Lord, we are afraid of people who are different from us: those more powerful than us, those poorer than us, those of a different color or creed, those smarter than us, those with different personalities. How do we talk to these people, O God? How do we make peace with them? *(sing refrain)*

Lord, we have acquaintances, friends and family members whom we deeply love but who do not know you. We are afraid for their salvation. *(sing refrain)*

We admit, O God, that we’re fearful of stillness and quiet. It seems as if the last thing we want to do is slow down and be attentive to you. Help us not to shy away from quiet times, from the simplicity of prayer, Scripture, and your presence. It seems, O God, that, in the busyness of countless invitations to gatherings and activities we are afraid to say no. *(sing refrain)*

We are fearful so often, O Lord, because in our encounters with sin and evil we find ourselves weak and poor. We thank you so much then, Jesus, for your actions and for your words—for love and the promise of nearness, which are our strength and our riches. Amen. Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from you.

*Song of Assurance: “How Firm a Foundation” LUYH 427:1,3,5

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Children’s Blessing: “Send Us Your Spirit” LUYH 228 (chorus only)

Children ages 3 years old through Kindergarten are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to receive a prayer of blessing before going downstairs to the Multi-Purpose Room for a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Scripture: Romans 8:28-39 p.1757

Sermon: “The God Who Will Not Let Go” Rev. Aldon Kuiper

*Song of Response: “Neither Death nor Life” LUYH 450

*Affirmation of Faith: “My Only Comfort” LUYH 434

*Song of Affirmation: “When Peace Like a River” LUYH 451:1,2