

*We Profess Our Faith: Our World Belongs to God #39

**The church is a gathering of forgiven sinners called to be holy.
Saved by the patient grace of God, we deal patiently with others
and together confess our need for grace and forgiveness.
Restored in Christ's presence, shaped by his life,
this new community lives out the ongoing story
of God's reconciling love, announces the new creation,
and works for a world of justice and peace.**

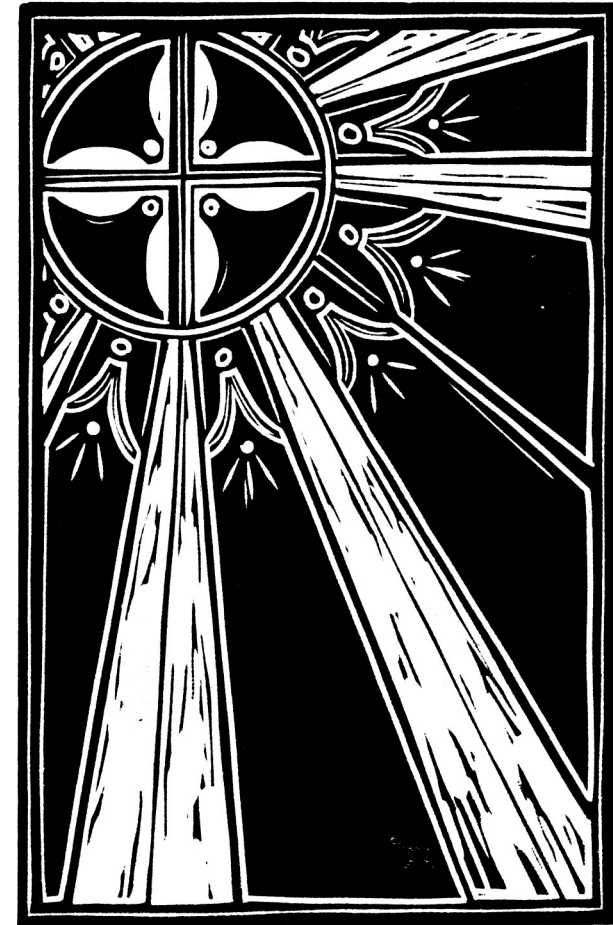
Offertory Prayer and Offering of our Gifts

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 Missions Fund which enables us to focus on mission efforts both locally and in other countries.

We Share Our Joys & Concerns and Pray for Each Other

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "Miren qué Bueno/Oh, Look and Wonder" LUYH 260



Prayer of the Day

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

† Cover art: *Cross and Sun Rays*, Linoleum block print by Elizabeth Steele Halstead
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Worship Participants

Pastor: Joel Kok ♦ Piano: Mike Janssen ♦ Guitar: Laremy DeVries ♦ Vocalist: Rebecca DeVries
Sound: Aidan Bender ♦ Projection: Dave Goslinga ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Gathering

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Are the commandments the Lord commands us too hard, too distant?

They are not locked in heaven; they are not across the sea.

Where is the word of the Lord?

Very near—in our mouths and in our hearts, so we can do it.

*Song: “Ancient Words”

LUYH 762

*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

*Songs of Praise: “Welcome Into this Place”

LUYH 530

“God Himself Is With Us”

LUYH 565

Renewal

Lectionary Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

p.320

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon: “He Will Hold Me Fast”

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;

when the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.

I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;

for my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

Chorus

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;

for my Savior loves me so. He will hold me fast.

2. Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;

precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.

He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;

bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. (to chorus)

(continued on next page)

**3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
till our faith is turned to sight when He comes at last! (to chorus)**

Words & Music: Ada Ruth Habershon, Matthew Merker

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Guide for Grateful Living: Psalm 119:1-8 (The Voice)

p.957

Happy are the people who walk with integrity,
who live according to the teachings of the Lord.

**Happy are the people who keep His decrees,
who pursue Him wholeheartedly.**

These are people who do nothing wrong;
they do what it takes to follow His ways.

**You have given us Your precepts
so we would be careful about keeping them.**

Oh, that every part of my life would remain in line with what You require!

Then I would feel no shame when I fix my eyes upon Your commands.

**With a pure heart, I will give thanks to You
when I hear about Your just and fair rulings.**

I will live within Your limits; do not abandon me completely!

Word

Children's Blessing: “Christ, Be Our Light” (*chorus only*)

LUYH 908

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: Matthew 5:17-48

p.1502

Sermon: “The Vulnerable and the Perfect Improv”

Pastor Joel Kok

Response

*Song of Response: “Love Divine, All Love's Excelling”

LUYH 351:1,2,4