

Covenant Congregational Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Service of Worship March 26, 2017 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *Lord, Speak to Me* Smith

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Cameron Gay

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 23)

In the darkest valley, **at the banquet table;**
in the hard work of life, **at the moments of ease;**
in our day-to-day reality, **at times set aside—**
like this time, now— **for worship, for listening, for paying attention;**
with every step we take: **goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow.**

*HYMN *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* #407

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION (© 2011 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms")

**Life-Giving God, You put out the 'Welcome' mat for us as we gather to worship.
You nourish our souls and bodies through Your goodness and tender mercies;
You heal our life's wounds and Your generous love fills us to overflowing. You
give us an honored place at Your table and invite us to stay with You as Your
guest forever. You have promised that your unfailing love will stay with us
always, and for this, we give you our thanks. Amen.**

**As human beings, we know there will be times of stress, when our body or mind
lets us down; we know there will dark times too, when life seems to be nothing
but struggle; and it is in those times especially, that we rely on your Presence
deep within us to guide and bless us. Grace-Giving God, you provide us with the
tools we need for the tasks we face and for this we give you our trust and our
thanks today. Amen**

THE WORD OF GOD Mike Bassett

New Testament Reading: John 6:60-71 NIV (New Testament page 99)

⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them."

⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

⁶⁷ "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

⁷⁰ Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" ⁷¹ (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

Response: The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

*HYMN *Wonderful Words of Life* #525

(Children K through 3rd grade are dismissed to Junior Church at this time)

SERMON The Holy Quest For Relationship: Do You Want to Leave?
Pastor Jason O. Mohn

RESPONSE SONG *Come, O Sinners, Poor and Needy* #324

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Choral Anthem *Lord, You Are Near Me* Patterson

*Doxology #48

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN *He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought!* #404

*BENEDICTION

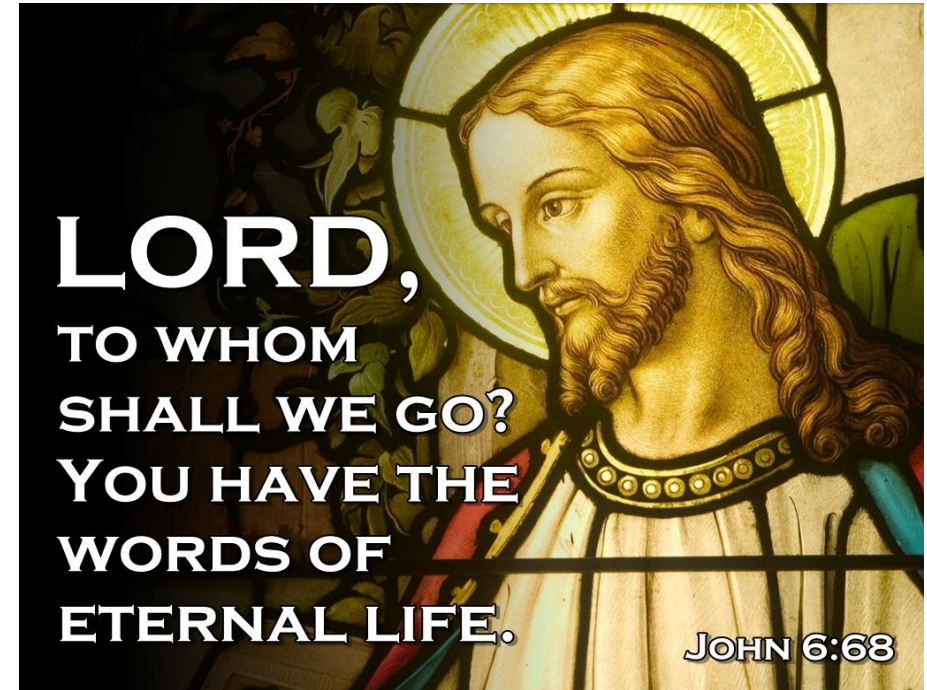
*POSTLUDE *Let It Rain* Kana

*Please stand in praise to God, if able

CCLI #982653

Thank you for participating in our worship gathering! We are glad that you are here this morning and pray that this might be a meaningful faith-building experience for you and/or your family. To more deeply connect with this faith community, we invite you to stay following our worship gathering and enjoy a time of refreshments and fellowship in our Fireside Room and Narthex.

We welcome Joanne Simonson's family to worship today. They gather to remember the one year anniversary of Joanne's passing last March. Joanne was a faithful member of our church family for many years. Her children are Catherine, Gail, James, Jill, and Thomas. Please warmly greet them as they remember the legacy of their mother with us.



Welcome to Covenant Congregational Church
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