

The Service of Worship
Sunday, March 9, 2008 – 11:00 AM

Welcome

As we welcome families with children to worship,
be aware that nursery care is available for infants and toddlers
downstairs throughout the service.

Jr. JAMboree for children ages 3-4th grade is also offered
throughout the service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Prelude Becky Ericson, Pianist

*Call to Worship From Psalm 130

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

**People: Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications.**

Leader: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord.

People: more than those who watch for the morning.

Leader: O Israel, hope in the Lord!

**People: For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
And with him is great power to redeem.**

*Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn #514

Come, Spirit, Come

Scripture Readings Bud Clark, Reader

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Romans 8:6-11

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

*The Doxology Hymn #48

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #292

Loving Spirit

Sermon Rev. Doug Thorpe

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THE BONES?

*Hymn #621

God of the Prophets

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Those who are able, please stand.

Welcome! Whether this is your first time with us, a return visit, or something you do every Sunday, we're happy that you're here. Please fill out the Home Page insert in this bulletin, including your address and prayer requests, and make it part of the offering today. The offering is an opportunity to share financially in the ministries and mission of our congregation. If you're a visitor or a newcomer, please feel no obligation about this.

COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

Celebrating our 36th Year of Ministry

7018 Sydenstricker Road; Springfield, VA 22152

703-455-4150 communitycovenant@verizon.net

Our mission as a congregation is calling people from this community and around the world into communion with Christ. Our communion with him and with each other grows as we enter into the promises and challenges that a covenant with Christ includes.

THIS WEEK

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|--------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Today | 9:30 AM | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 AM | Worship Service |
| | 12:15 PM | <u>Small Group: Praying for Revitalization</u> Downstairs – Elementary Classroom |
| | 5:30 PM | <u>Lenten Bible Study: Jesus and the Children</u> Meeting in the Fellowship Hall |

NO YOUTH GROUP TODAY!

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|-----------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday | 9:45 AM | Women's Bible Study – Church Kitchen Using Beth Moore Study on Daniel |
| Wednesday | 7:00 PM | FIT Relationships Marriage Education |

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| Sunday | 9:30 AM | Sunday School for all ages |
| Mar. 16 | 11:00 AM | Palm Sunday Worship Service <i>Bringing My World to Christ</i> |
| | 12:15 PM | Prayer for Revitalization Group |
| | 5:00 PM | Youth Group |

Remember, this building is regularly used by other groups. If you are planning an activity, remember to check the complete calendar in the church office. Please speak to Kathy Knowles, our Administrative Assistant, before scheduling any event. (Call 703-455-4150 or 703-425-5633.) The deadline for bulletin announcements is 9 AM Friday.

Celebrate the Lord's Supper during Holy Week. The entire congregation is invited to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the sanctuary on Maundy Thursday Evening, March 20, at 7:30 PM. This special worship service will provide the opportunity to sing great hymns of the cross, to meditate on Scriptures that remind us what happened "on the night when he was betrayed," and to receive the Bread and the Cup in communion with Christ and with each other. Both wine and grape juice, leavened and unleavened bread will be used in the celebration, as well as grapes for the children. Pastor Benson will share a meditation based on The Words of Institution in 1 Corinthians 11:23-36 – "*Received and Handed On.*"

Community Sunrise Service will be held at 7 AM on Easter Sunday, March 23, in the cemetery yard behind the historic Methodist Chapel on Hooes Road near the interchange of Sydenstricker Road and the Fairfax County Parkway. Participating congregations include Community Covenant Church, Peniel Presbyterian Church, Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, the Village Church at Greenspring, and Agape Korean Baptist Church. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held inside the chapel.

EASTER OUTREACH: Our annual Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt will take place on March 23. Brunch begins at 9 AM, and the Easter Egg Hunt begins at 9:45. Please sign up for the meal on the table outside the sanctuary. Candy and prizes to fill the plastic eggs should be placed on Kathy's desk in the church office.

Lenten Bible Study: What did Jesus say about the next generation? Help answer this question on Sunday evenings 5:30 to 7:00 at the church. The themes for each study will be focused on the Bible and our community: February 17 – Content; February 24 – Conflict; March 2 – Change; and March – Commitment. Please bring a red-letter edition of the Bible or New Testament.

New Guidelines for Labels to save for the Education Program at the Covenant Children's Home in Cromwell have been developed and are in the basket on the coffee tables where labels are gathered. Take a copy home and post it on your refrigerator.

What if the Veritas 13 became the Veritas 21? Imagine if several more people from our church experienced the truth about congregational revitalization the way some of us did on Saturday, Feb. 9, in Livingston, NJ! Now you can! Dr. John Wenrich, Director of Congregational Vitality for the Evangelical Covenant Church is leading another Veritas Workshop at St. Paul's Wolf's Covenant Church in York, PA, on Saturday, June 7, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Learn what it takes and join in as we seek to become a healthy missional church. The workshop is free and it's only 2 ½ hours away. Tell Pastor Benson if you would like to attend.

YOUTH GROUP

For the month of March Youth Group will meet on the 2nd, 16th and 30th. Youth Group starts at 5:00, and friends are always welcome to join in. Snacks are welcome, too!

Don't forget to place your donations for our sponsored child, Yohannes, in the donations box at the back of the sanctuary. The Youth Group has pledged \$40 per month toward his support.

SUMMER CAMPS AT CAMP SQUANTO for children entering Grade 2 through young people entering Grade 12 at the Covenant Camp in Southern New Hampshire. Brochures are on the credenza. Register now – camps fill up FAST.

Covenant World Mission Prayer Line: 1-800-FON-PRAY

Recycle! We have the bins in the kitchen – 3 of them! Please place your recyclables in the appropriate bin. Thank you!

Get Connected with Covenant Newswire – this free service delivers the latest news from Covenant Churches around the world to your home or office in a single daily email. It's a great way to keep informed about what's happening among the mission friends. To sign up, visit the Covenant Web Page (www.covchurch.org) and click on the Newswire button.

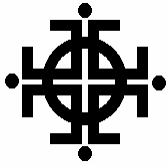
In the Covenant Companion – “Kansas Girl Reaches Out to Town Destroyed by Tornado” – Stan Friedman tells the inspiring story of 7-year-old Emma Marten, who attends Countryside Covenant Church in McPherson and who raised over \$4,000 by selling her artwork to benefit the people in Greensburg, Kansas, which was almost totally destroyed in a storm last May. You can subscribe to our award-winning denominational magazine online at www.covchurch.org/communications or by calling 773-907-3310. Subscriptions are \$19.95 a year.

The Books and Culture Group will meet at 7 PM on Saturday, April 26th to discuss A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce. The group discussion is open to anyone who wishes to participate. Contact Becky Ericson if you have a book to suggest (703-503-3297). Covenant Crafters also gathers that day beginning at 3 and continuing through a shared meal at 6 PM, which those who are attending the book discussion are invited to join.

Did you miss last week's sermon? Hear it and read the bulletin each week on the church website. It is updated weekly. Please visit us at www.covenantchurchva.org.

Lessons to Read for Next Sunday – Palm Sunday

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|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Isaiah 50:4-9 | The teacher who listens |
| Psalms 118 | The festal procession |
| Philippians 2:5-11 | The mind of Christ |
| John 12:12-33 | The Palm Sunday Story |



The character of the Evangelical Covenant Church is expressed by our logo: at the center is the cross. Next is a circle – the symbol of being united in Christ. Then four different people, joined to one another, reach out to the world in love. The Covenant Web Page: www.covchurch.org

A Covenant Affirmation - We affirm the necessity of the new birth. The Apostle Paul wrote, “*If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come*” (2 Cor. 5:17). New birth in Christ means committing ourselves to him and receiving forgiveness, acceptance and eternal life. It means being alive in Christ, and this life has the qualities of love and righteousness, joy and peace. New birth is only the beginning. Growing to maturity in Christ is a lifelong process for both individuals and communities of believers. God forms and transforms us – and it is through people transformed by Christ that God transforms the world.

Nest Sunday is important for a couple of reasons - not only is it Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week, but it’s also *Bringing My World to Christ* Sunday throughout the Covenant. This is the day when all of the mission friends, young and old, are asked to make a list of people who have not yet come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. We will all be given the opportunity to create such a list of friends, relatives, family members, classmates, neighbors, coworkers, classmates and acquaintances. At the end of the service, we will all be invited to bring our completed list to the altar. The promise we are being asked to make is 1) to pray for each of these people regularly by name; 2) to find ways of showing them that God the Father loves them and that we care about them, too; and 3) to share the good news with them as the Holy Spirit gives us the opportunities to do so. As you prepare for worship this week, ask God to show you what names should be on your list.