



Explanation of Cover Art

Illustration by Jeff Looker, in collaboration with Eileen Spenla and Pam Looker.

The genesis behind the art was twofold:

First was Fr. Dave Pivonka's prophetic image at our 2021 COTL Convocation. The image he described was our community in a circle, and we were all initially looking toward the center, inwardly. Then the Lord invited us to look outside of the circle. Everyone turned around. We were gathered together in community with arms interlocked, and we were no longer looking internally, but externally. The Lord was saying that we need to look at what is trying to defeat us as a community. There are things coming that the Lord wants us to be attentive to that could destroy us. Looking outward, in one sense, is for our protection. What are we protecting? Our covenant. There is much grace in the covenant that the evil one desires to break. Fr. Dave also described in his vision, an invitation. As we look outward, what that invitation is will become clear.

The second inspiration for the image is Isaiah 60, our founding scripture. Isaiah 60, says:

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

The Lord has asked us to build the culture of the Holy Spirit. This is not accomplished by our efforts alone, but in co-laboring with the grace the Holy Spirit provides. This is symbolized by the fire of the Holy Spirit united with the glory of the Lord rising upon us in the midst of darkness. Rays of grace are shown falling upon each of us from the image of the Holy Spirit, providing the anointing each of us needs as well as linking us together through himself. Our covenant with one another is through the power of the Holy Spirit. The sun behind us is not setting, as at the end of something, but rather, it is rising, denoting the dawn of the new in keeping with the image of Isaiah 60.

The circle of our community members shown in the image is open in the center with arms extended to represent the invitation to share in our life together and an invitation for others to experience the grace of the Holy Spirit.

2022 City of the Lord Convocation
“Dwelling together in Unity.”
February 17-19, 2023

Schedule

FRIDAY February 17, 2023

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM “Rooted” Praise and Worship Night-
 Jamie Cleaton Preaching.

SATURDAY February 18, 2023

9:00 AM Welcome/ Orientation/ Praise/Worship
9:15 AM Opening Prayer Meeting and Renewal of
 Covenant Ceremony
 Talk # 1 Jamie Cleaton
 Tim Keller will speak on his new book,
Eye Has not Seen
12:30 PM Lunch provided at COTL Community Center
2:00 PM Talk #2 Jamie Cleaton and Discussion
 Groups
4:00 PM Break and Prepare for Lord’s Day at the
 Center. Parents pick up children from
 Childcare-Set up Main Hall for Lord’s Day
4:30 PM Conviviality on the patio
5:00 PM Inauguration of the Lord’s Day
5:30 - 7:00 PM Dinner
After 7:00 PM Evening get-togethers in the neighborhood

SUNDAY, February 19, 2023

9:00 AM Mass at COTL and Closing Session
10:30 AM - Noon Light Brunch and Fellowship at the Center
Noon Convocation Ends

The Founding Charism of City of the Lord

Receptivity and Commitment to the Person and Culture of the Holy Spirit, particularly in Covenant Love.

The Community Prayer

Merciful God and Father,

I come into your presence as a member of City of the Lord. I thank you for calling us together under the lordship of Jesus Christ to be a sign in the world of that City whose builder and maker is God. I pray for a fresh outpouring of your Holy Spirit on City of the Lord this day--that through the power of the Holy Spirit we will grow in gratitude and love for you and for each other; in faithfulness to our Covenant; in generosity of prayer and service; and in zeal for the apostolic mission of evangelization.

I ask you to bless City of the Lord in all its locations, and to safeguard the unity of the body. May your mercy and protection be upon each of my brothers and sisters today, especially those for whom I now pray:

...for families and marriages; engaged couples, singles, single parents, and widowed;

...for all our children, teenagers, and students;

...for couples who wish to conceive, and for pregnant women and their children in the womb;

...for those who are sick or suffering, especially with long-term illness;

...for the Coordinators, Senior Women Leaders, members of the Council, their families and households;

...for all pastoral leaders, heads of ministries and outreaches;

...for our priests and religious, those living a life consecrated to the Lord,

and our brothers and sisters pursuing vocations in the Church;

...for those serving on mission or away from the body;

...for those undergoing temptation, doubt, or confusion;

...for our faithful departed and the next member who will die;

...and for the member of City of the Lord most in need of your mercy and our prayers this day.

Through Jesus, who is our Lord. Amen.

Isaiah 60 (NRSV)

1 “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. **2** See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. **3** Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. **4** “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. **5** Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. **6** Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD. **7** All Kedar’s flocks will be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth will serve you; they will be accepted as offerings on my altar, and I will adorn my glorious temple.

8 “Who are these that fly along like clouds, like doves to their nests? **9** Surely the islands look to me; in the lead are the ships of Tarshish, bringing your children from afar, with their silver and gold, to the honor of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.

10 “Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you. Though in anger I struck you, in favor I will show you compassion. **11** Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that people may bring you the wealth of the nations— their kings led in triumphal procession. **12** For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined.

13 “The glory of Lebanon will come to you, the juniper, the fir and the cypress together, to adorn my sanctuary; and I will glorify the place for my feet. **14** The children of your oppressors will come bowing before you; all who despise you will bow down at your feet and will call you the City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. **15** “Although you have been forsaken and hated, with no one traveling through, I will make you the everlasting pride and the joy of all generations. **16** You will drink the milk of nations and be nursed at royal breasts. Then you will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. **17** Instead of bronze I will bring you gold, and silver in place of iron. Instead of wood I will bring you bronze, and iron in place of stones. I will make peace your governor and well-being your ruler. **18** No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise. **19** The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. **20** Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.

21 Then all your people will be righteous, and they will possess the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendor. **22** The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly.”

Renewal of Covenant Ceremony

Opening Song

Reading of Isaiah 60

Solemn Reading of the Covenant (*all Covenant members stand*).

Preamble

We believe that God has called us together, as a people, under the Lordship of His Son, Jesus Christ, to live a life together in the power of the Holy Spirit, in Christian community.

We believe that what we are doing together is not simply a matter of our own desires, but of God's call to a covenant relationship with Him. He is offering to be our God and He is asking that we be a people set apart for Him and for His purposes in the world.

We believe that God wishes to form in us the life of heaven, to be a visible manifestation in the world of that City whose builder and maker is God. We recognize that this endeavor will require the offering of our whole selves to God, that the way we live might not continue to be shaped by this world but be transformed by the renewal of our minds in God's truth.

Therefore, while acknowledging our primary commitment to our Church, to marriage, or the single state for the sake of the kingdom, we choose to place our lives under the reign of the Lord Jesus, to love and serve our God and one another with our whole lives and to follow His plan wherever it may lead us, as members of the CITY OF THE LORD.

Covenant Agreements *(After each agreement, all respond, "I do.")*

1. We agree to love, support, serve and honor one another, as brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. We agree to conduct our relationships with one another in the "fruit of the Holy Spirit", according to God's Word: eager to build one another up in the Lord, quick to forgive and ask forgiveness, to exhort and admonish one another, respectful, uplifting, and loyal in our speech.
3. We agree to handle personal difficulties and disagreements in the way prescribed by the Community.
4. We agree to set aside a significant amount of time each day for personal prayer, and for reading Scripture as God's revealed Word.
5. We agree to be faithful in our commitments to Community gatherings and activities, and to service in the Community, in the Church and in outreach.
6. We agree to contribute regularly and faithfully to the financial support of the Community by contributing at least 50% of our tithe to the Community.
7. We agree to respect and commit ourselves to the way of life established among us, especially as set forth by the Covenant.
8. We agree to receive gratefully the appropriate guidance of those in the Community who are designated to exercise pastoral care for us as individuals, and as groups; especially when major changes in lifestyle, vocation or commitments are involved.
9. We agree to recognize and honor the pastoral guidance of the Coordinators and elected Leaders over our life together and to commit ourselves in a special way to support their office, to encourage them, and to pray for them.

10. We agree to be held to this Covenant, and to hold one another to them.

Covenant Members Renewal Statement of Resolve (*Members stand, and recite*)

In the presence of God, and His people, I,
_____ openly declare my resolve to bind myself to this Community in true covenant love and service, to its Covenant, and to the plan and purpose for which God has called us together. I am resolved to live for God, and for His people, as a member of CITY OF THE LORD.

Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition - *O Salutaris Hostia*

O salutaris Hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.
Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria.
Amen.

O saving Victim, opening wide,
The gate of heaven to man below!
Our foes press on from every side;
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.
To Thy great name by endless praise,
Immortal Godhead, one in Three;
Oh, grant us endless length of days,
In our true native land with Thee. Amen

Benediction - *Tantum Ergo*

Tantum ergo Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui:
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui:
Praestet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.
Genitori, Genitoque
Laus et jubilatio,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedictio:
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.

Down in adoration falling,
Lo! the sacred Host we hail,

Lo! o'er ancient forms departing
Newer rites of grace prevail;
Faith for all defects supplying,
Where the feeble senses fail.
To the everlasting Father,
And the Son Who reigns on high
With the Holy Spirit proceeding
Forth from each eternally,
Be salvation, honor blessing,
Might and endless majesty. Amen.

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you have given them bread from heaven,

Response: containing in itself all delight.

Presider: Lord, our God, You have given us the true bread from heaven. In the strength of this food may we live always by your life and rise in glory on the last day. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen

Reposition and the Divine Praises (Echo the Presider)

Presider: Blessed be God.
Blessed be His Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.
Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints. Amen.
May the heart of Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world, even to the end of time. Amen.

Closing Song - *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

1 Holy God, we praise thy name.
God of all, we bow before thee.
All on earth your scepter claim;
all in heav'n above adore thee.
Infinite thy vast domain,
everlasting is thy reign.

2 Hark, the loud celestial hymn,
angel choirs above are raising.
Cherubim and seraphim,
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy Lord.

3 Lo! the apostolic train
join thy sacred name to hallow.
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
and the blessed martyrs follow,
and, from morn till set of sun,
through the church the song goes on.

4 Holy Author, Holy Word,
Holy Spirit, three we name thee;
still, one holy voice is heard:
undivided God, we claim thee,
and adoring bend the knee,
while we own the mystery.

Lord's Day Ceremony

If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from doing your own pleasure on My holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and My holy day honorable, if you honor it, then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth. I will feed you with the heritage of your father Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Isaiah 58:13-14

Therefore, a Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God. And, whoever enters God's rest also ceases from his labors as God did from His. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest. Hebrews 4:9-11

1. WELCOMING THE LORD'S DAY

Leader: Brothers and Sisters, let's welcome the Lord's Day.

All: We welcome the day of the Lord in joy and in peace.

Leader: Today we set aside the care of this past week so that we may honor the Lord and celebrate His Resurrection. Today, we cease from our work in order to worship God and remember the eternal life to which He has called us.

All: Let us enter into God's rest and cease from our labors as God did from His.

(Opening Song)

Leader: A reading from... (Sunday Liturgy or one of the Resurrection accounts)

All: Amen.

2. KINDLING OF THE LIGHTS

Reader: " And God said: let there be light, and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the

light Day and the darkness He called Night, and there was evening and morning, the first day.” Gen 1:3

Leader: Light is the symbol of our Lord, Jesus.

All: **The Lord is our light and our salvation.**

Leader: Light is the symbol of the Lord’s purpose and ways.

All: **His word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light for my path.**

Leader: Light is the symbol of the mission to which the Lord has called us.

All: **You are the Light of the world. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.**

Woman of the House: Lord of the Universe, in honor of your Son, Light of the World and Author of Life, I am about to perform the service of lighting the lights for the Lord’s Day, even as it is written: “And you shall call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable.” (Isa. 58:13)

All: **In You, O Lord, is the fountain of life and in Your light, we see light.**

Woman of the House: (*Lights candle and prays with hands extended*) Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has made us holy by Your loving work and taught us to light the lights for the Lord’s Day.

All: **Amen. (Song)**

Reader: At that time, Jesus declared: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your

souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
Mt 11:28-30

Leader: May the Lord shelter us this day in His loving presence; may He be for us a stronghold, a shield, a place of refuge from every care and sorrow, as we dedicate ourselves to giving thanks and to recalling His saving deeds. (raising hands) Spread over us, O Lord, the tabernacle of Your peace.

3. BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

Leader: At this hour, God’s messenger of peace comes and turns the hearts of brother to his brother, sister to her sister, parents to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents. Mal. 3:24

All: **Happy the people with such blessings. Happy the people whose God is the Lord.** Ps. 144:15

Leader: Let our sons then flourish like saplings, grown tall and strong from their youth; our daughters graceful as columns, adorned as though for a palace. Give them the grace to embrace Your plan for their life either in marriage or celibacy for the sake of Your kingdom.

All: **Happy the people with such blessings. Happy the people whose God is the Lord.** Ps. 144:15

Leader: May the God of our fathers, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ bless each of you. May He who has guided you to this day lead you to be an honor and blessing to your family. May He who has protected you from harm make you servants of the Church and a blessing to all mankind, through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen!**

4. BLESSING OF THE MEAL

Leader: (Fill everyone’s wine glass) Let us praise God with this

symbol of
joy and thank Him for His goodness to us this past
week:

For the life He has given us in the Holy Spirit...

Amen!

For health, and the strength to serve Him...

Amen!

For our families...

Amen!

For our life together in covenant community...

Amen!

For our brotherhood, sisterhood, and friendship...

Amen!

For the discipline that comes from trials & temptations.

Amen!

For the happiness that comes to us out of our labors...

Amen!

Leader: You have ennobled us O Lord, by the gift of work, and in
Your love and kindness You have made us holy by the
gift of rest, according to your commandment: "Six days
shall you labor and do all your work, but the seventh day
is a Sabbath to the Lord your God." Deut 5:13

**All: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the
Universe, who has created the fruit of the vine.**

Leader: (Raise the bread) This bread and the food we are about
to share
symbolizes the abundant love of the Lord for His people.
As we
partake of this bounty, may we also share the fruit of the
Holy Spirit
with one another, in love and in truth.

**All: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the
Universe, who
brings forth bread from the earth.**

Leader: We thank God for His goodness as together we ask Him
to bless
this meal:

All: **Bless us O Lord, and these Your gifts which we are
about to
receive from Your bounty, through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord Jesus grant us a life of holiness!

Amen!

May the Lord Jesus grant us a life of peace!

Amen!

May the Lord Jesus grant us a life of joy! **Amen!**

Reader: And may the King of Eternal Glory lead us this day to the
banquet of eternal life!

All: **GOOD LORD'S DAY!**

Lord's Day Celebration Songs

It Is Good

It is good to praise the Lord
And make music to your Name, O God Most High.
To proclaim your love and faithfulness
All the day and through the night.

Lai, lai, lai...

You make me glad by your deeds, O Lord,
So I sing for joy at all your hands have made.
How great are your works, O Lord,
Elohim baruch Ha-shem!

Lai, lai, lai...

May I dwell in your courts, O Lord,
There to flourish like the trees of Lebanon,
Planted in the house of Adonai,
There to live forever more!

Lai, lai, lai...

Hiney mah tov

Hiney mah tov umah naim, shevet achim gam yachad.
Hiney mah tov umah naim, shevet achim gam yachad.
Hiney mah tov, hiney mah tov. Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai.
Hiney mah tov, hiney mah tov. Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai.

Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity.
Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity.
In unity, to dwell in unity. Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai.
In unity, to dwell in unity. Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai.

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes,
Restored the fortunes of Zion,
We were like men dreaming,
We were like men dreaming.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
And our tongue with shouts of joy;
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
And our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us;
We are filled with gladness.

Deliver us, O Lord, from bondage,
As the streams in the southern desert.
They that sow their seeds in tears
Will reap, will reap with shouts of joy!

He that goes forth weeping,
Bearing seeds for sowing,
Shall come home with shouts of joy,
Come home carrying his sheaves.

Lai, lai, lai...

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