

*(As we enter the sanctuary, let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Please observe social distancing, keep your masks on while you are in the building, and please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.)*

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

### SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

### WELCOME

### GREETING

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

PRELUDE "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" arr.: A.L. Page

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I will listen to what God the LORD will say;

People: **he promises peace to his people, his saints - but let them not return to folly.**

Leader: Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,

People: **that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Leader: Love and faithfulness meet together;

People: **righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

Leader: Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,

People: **and righteousness looks down from heaven.**

Leader: The LORD will indeed give what is good,

People: **and our land will yield its harvest.**

Leader: Righteousness goes before him

People: **and prepares the way for his steps.**

*Psalm 85:8-13*

All: **Let us worship our God  
who calls us to be our better selves.**

### \*OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 803 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

### CALL TO CONFESSION

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Almighty God who is our hope,

People: **You come to release us from feelings that are difficult, like sadness or grief, loss or disappointment, fear or anger.**

**To our minds, release means that we will no longer have these feelings.**

**To your mind, release means that we will be able to have them, and to allow them to come and go as necessary, without being destroyed or consumed by them.**

**Give us, God of our tomorrows, the willingness to accept your offered grace to be healed by your love; in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, renewed, and healed.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

### THE PEACE

Leader: As people forgiven by the abundant grace of God, we are at peace with God, and we are called to live in peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE PSALMS (p. 501—OT) Psalm 23

GOSPEL READING (p. 41—NT) Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

SERMON God in the Midst Laura Hicks Hardy

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 169 "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God:  
who welcomes our laughter  
and moves us to wonder...**

**We believe in Christ:  
who welcomes our questions  
and loves us to trust...**

**We believe in Spirit:  
who welcomes our doubts  
and inspires us to faith.**

**This we believe! Amen!**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## GOING OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN OF SENDING # 321 (vs. 1, 2, 4, 5) "The Church's One Foundation"

### BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Postludium" Johan Adam Krygell

\*Please rise, in body or spirit.

*Music reprinted under CCLI license.*

**Large-print Hymnals** are available in the back of the sanctuary; and **large-print bulletins** are on the table in the Narthex.

**Hearing Assist Devices** are located in the rear of the Sanctuary. Disposable ear buds are available for your convenience. They can be disposed after use in the labeled slot. **Please note**, only one ear bud receives signal, so please check both buds to determine that the unit is working. Contact the church office with any other issues.

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**WELCOME VISITORS!** We are glad you are here. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join with us in service to Christ.

**This morning we welcome Laura Hicks Hardy to the pulpit.** Laura is in her final year of the MDiv program at Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan. Laura pursued a call to ministry after 6 years teaching writing at King University in Bristol, TN. She has an MA in English from the University of Tennessee and several years of experience on staff at Hopwood Christian Church. She lives in Elizabethton with her husband Jason, daughter Clare, dog Lucy, and cat Grendel. They enjoy hiking, reading, and exploring the backyard together.

## ITEMS FOR UPCOMING GARAGE SALE

We continue to accept items for the **Church Wide Garage Sale**, which is scheduled for Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds will go toward supporting Covenant's mission activities. We will accept any donated items, except for clothing. Items are being stored in the classroom next to the kitchen off the Fellowship Hall. (The basement storage area is FULL). The Habitat for Humanity "Restore" will receive all donated items that do not sell.

**We also need volunteers to help with organizing, pricing, and then working on the day of the sale.** If you feel led to help support this effort, contact any of the LWWMC members, or email Don Coble at [dwcoble1@gmail.com](mailto:dwcoble1@gmail.com).

The Local & World Wide Missions Committee thanks everyone for their support of this and all of Covenant's mission activities.

## ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving is available through our website at [www.cpcjc.org](http://www.cpcjc.org). Getting started is easy—just click on the **Online Giving** link. This is a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. *If you have any questions, please contact Tina in the church office.*

## UPDATED STATEMENT ON MASKS

**On behalf of Session and the Re-Opening Task Force:**

Out of an abundance of caution, we advise that participants attending indoor activities at Covenant continue to wear masks until the risk level of COVID-19 infection is low. The CDC guidelines relaxing the wearing of masks apply to fully vaccinated individuals. Our informal poll of Covenant worship attendees found that approximately 20% are not vaccinated. There are some that are too young, are allergic, or are immunosuppressed and can't be fully vaccinated. To determine the COVID-19 risk level, we are using the Covid Tracker website for Washington county:

[https://covidactnow.org/us/tennessee-tn/county/washington\\_county/](https://covidactnow.org/us/tennessee-tn/county/washington_county/)

We will check the website each week, and when the parameters are all in the **green - low risk - zone**, we will email a notice and place signs on the doors indicating that **masks are voluntary**. Should the COVID-19 risk level cross back into the **yellow - medium risk - zone**, we will email a notice and place signs on the doors that **masks are required**. Thank you.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to glorify and enjoy God. We live knowing that God calls us to be a place of love, support, hope and acceptance regardless of earthly labels. Jesus Christ commissions us to make disciples and passionately share our gifts with the world through prayer, teaching, and service. The Holy Spirit allows us to determine and carry out Christ's will for our lives and the life of our church and empowers us to seek out and respond to the needs of our local and global community.

## AFFIRMING ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

We at Covenant Presbyterian Church of Johnson City, Tennessee, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church (USA), aka PC(USA), present its Churchwide Antiracism Policy, first adopted in 1999 and revised in 2016. It proclaims the following:

"While recognizing that racism victimizes many different racial ethnic groups, we acknowledge its unique impact on the African American community. Given the particular forms that anti-Black racism has taken in the United States of America, both historically (including slavery and Jim Crow) and today (including mass incarceration, disproportionate policing, economic inequality, and continuing acts of racially oriented violence and hate), we state clearly: GOD LOVES BLACKNESS. Too many have denied this basic truth for too long. Our choice to align ourselves with love and not hate requires both a rejection of racism and a positive proclamation that God delights in Black lives."

## CPC STATEMENT OF OPENNESS AND WELCOME

We aspire to Christ's model of openness and love for all persons. As God has welcomed us, we also welcome everyone into the life, leadership, and community of Christ's church, regardless of abilities, age, economic status, education, ethnicity, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, social position or any identity or status that might be perceived as separating us from God or one another. We pledge to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of each of God's children, with membership, leadership, and employment open to whomever God calls.

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

### Today, July 18

8:30a	Issues Class on Zoom
9:45a	Sojourner's Class in person
11:00a	Worship Service
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

### Monday, July 19

10a—3p	Good Sam Dropoff
7:00p	NarAnon Mtg

### Tuesday, July 20

10a—3p	Good Sam Dropoff
10:00a	Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p	Al-Anon Mtg
7:30p	PNC Mtg on Zoom

### Wednesday, July 21

10a—3p	Good Sam Dropoff
Noon—2:30p	Sanctuary Reserved
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

### Thursday, July 22

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
Noon	Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p	PNC Mtg on Zoom

### Friday, July 23

6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg
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### Saturday July 24

10a—4p	Latin X Event
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## TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:  
Liturgist:

Jim Starr  
Gwen Hunter

## CHURCH STAFF

Music Director:  
Office Administrator:  
Administrative Assistant:

Jessica Siple  
Tina Simon  
Anne Webb

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Week of July 18—24, 2021

Gary Salazar, friend of Cynthia Erdei.  
Vance Egan, friend of the Cobles.  
Pat Zembower, Christian's mother, is back in the hospital (from a nursing home) and has now been diagnosed with having cancer in her colon. Surgery is probable but nothing has been finalized yet. Please keep the family in your prayers.  
Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter, who continues her recovery at home.  
Gary Davis, Charlotte Corbett's son-in-law.  
Sarah Campbell, Sharon Fuhrman's granddaughter.

*Join us in continually lifting up in prayer our mission co-workers:*

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan  
Jon & Kathy Christiansen: Zimbabwe

*and Ministries of the Presbytery:*

UKirk ETSU (Pres. Campus Ministry)  
Holston Presbytery Camp

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 9:00a – 4:00p

The office is closed on Friday.

Note that voicemail messages are forwarded to the church email, which Tina can access at any time, **so if you have an emergency, PLEASE leave a voicemail.** Tina will return your call as soon as possible. 423-282-5324.

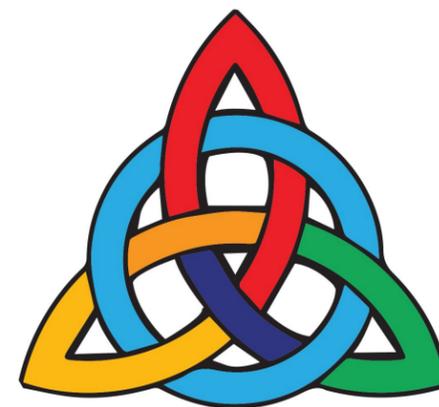


In the event of emergency, be aware that our Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Unit is located on the wall outside the front door of the Church Office.



Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud to have received the designation of being an Earth Care Congregation, through the PC (USA).

Covenant Presbyterian Church has been certified as a **Recovery Congregation** by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



# Covenant

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

423-282-5324 ♦ fax 423-282-5346 ♦ office@cpcjc.org ♦ www.cpcjc.org

Facebook: "Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)"

Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

## JULY 18, 2021

### 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

God of the unknown,  
your mysteries astound us.

Give us knowledge where you see fit  
and help us to sit comfortably  
with that which we can never understand.

Amen.