



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021 **13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN # 630 (*copy of hymn w/music attached*)

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring.

Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host.

Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 84:1-12

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43

SERMON

The Road to God's Dwelling Place

Laura Hicks Hardy

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN # 546 (*copy of hymn w/music attached*)

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us, from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

This morning we welcome Laura Hicks Hardy back to our virtual 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.

TODAY AT COVENANT:

In the Pulpit:
Organ/piano:
Liturgist:

Laura Hicks Hardy
Jessica Siple, Music Director
Kathi Cary

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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.