



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN # 317 (*copy of hymn w/music attached*)

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

GOSPEL READING

James 2:1-17

SERMON

Honoring the Poor

Laura Hicks Hardy

COMMUNION

Dr. Miriam Perkins & Laura Hicks Hardy

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN # 203 (*copy of hymn w/music attached*)

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

Refrain:

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love; show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.*

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. *[Refrain]*

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race;
neighbors are near us and far away. *[Refrain]*

These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *[Refrain]*

Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;
this is the way we should live like you. *[Refrain]*

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.

We also welcome Dr. Miriam Y. Perkins to the pulpit to preside over Communion. Miriam was ordained into Christian ministry at Hopwood Christian Church in 1997 and began serving as an elder in 2018. Her full-time work is in Theological Education at Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan as Professor of Theology. She loves being outdoors, teaching yoga and cooking, garden to table, with her spouse Michael Woods.

There will be a Meeting of the Congregation via Zoom on Sunday, September 12, 2021, at Noon for the purpose of hearing a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee. The Zoom Invitation will be emailed to the congregation on the Thursday prior to the meeting. Please reach out to those who do not have computers if you are able to have them join with you to be a part of this meeting.

TODAY AT COVENANT:

In the Pulpit:	Laura Hicks Hardy
Presiding over Communion:	Dr. Miriam Perkins
Organ/piano:	Jessica Siple, Music Director
Liturgist:	Pat Smith

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.