

(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 "Song of Joy" Stairs

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me,

People: **"Let us go into the house of the Lord."**

Leader: We come from lives busy

People: **with many different activities, to be as one body in this place at this time.**

Leader: We come to be renewed, refreshed,

People: **enlightened, strengthened, encouraged.**

Leader: We come seeking answers,

People: **to questions we do not always even know.**

Leader: We come to sit with friends and fellow Christians

People: **and to welcome the stranger in our midst.**

We come with joy and hope to worship our Lord.

*OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Merciful God,

People: **we confess that we have not followed your way.**

You rain down mercy upon us, yet we murmur in our discontent.

You cast out the evil within us, yet we fling curses at others.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Call us home from our wandering,

deliver our souls from death,

and cover us with your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Brothers and sisters,

believe the good news of the gospel!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new.

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. 572—OT)

Psalm 124

GOSPEL READING (p. 45—NT)

Mark 9:38-50

SERMON The Community God Envisions:
Healing, Mutuality, and Peace

Lauren Maes

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Exalt His Name"

Cooke & Elrey

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

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 Lauren Maes to our pulpit. Lauren was born and raised in San Diego, California. After attending Georgia Tech and working at a campus ministry there for one year, she moved to the Johnson City area to attend Emmanuel Christian Seminary. She is in her fourth and final year of seminary, pursuing a Master's in Divinity with a concentration in theology. While at seminary, she helped found a student organization called Sanctuary, which is a student-support group for LGBTQ+ students. Helping to lead this group has greatly enriched her time at Emmanuel. In her free time, she likes to cook, hangout with her cat, visit her partner in Atlanta, and spend time with friends.

The congregation expresses its deepest sympathy to Jessica Siple and her family on the loss of her nephew, Michael Brent Sutton, in an automobile accident on September 19, 2021.

WORLD COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY

The **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** will be celebrated next Sunday. Take time this week to prepare yourself in prayer and meditation.

NEWSLETTER

The **OCTOBER COURIER** MAY be on the table in the Narthex, so if you have not already received it via email, please pick up your copy. There are extra copies on the table if you want a printed one, but **first** look to see if there's one with your name on it.

If it is NOT on the table, it will be mailed and/or emailed to you during the week. You will also be able to find the newsletter and October's calendar on our website: www.cpcjc.org.

A NEW PASTOR FOR COVENANT!

As most of you already know, we have a new pastor! **The Rev. Maggie Rust will be in the pulpit on Sunday, October 31, 2021.** She's written us a letter (it was included in the email announcement). There are copies of it on the table in the Narthex if you would like to have one. This is an exciting time! We thank the PNC for their dedication and commitment to finding just the right person for Covenant.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLE BOOKS

If you have not picked up your book for the Red Tent, the Friendship, or the Joy Circle, they are on the counter in the church office workroom.

ATTN: COMMITTEE CHAIRS / LIAISONS

It's time to prepare your **2022 budget requests**. Please turn them in to Gary Smith by October 31, 2021.

GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

The **Good Samaritan grocery carts** continue to be placed outside the double doors in front of the office, under the overhang, **between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM, Monday thru Thursday.** Just drive up, load your items into the cart, and drive off! The grocery carts will be in the hallway on Sundays. We will continue collecting the following food items as they are staples: **Jelly/Jam; Peanut Butter; Canned Veggies; Canned Fruits; Dry / Canned Beans; Rice; Soups; Cereals (hot and cold); Canned Meats (Tuna, Vienna Sausage, etc.)**

If you wish to make a monetary donation, we will pass it along, too. Thank you for your generous donations to this local ministry!

ITEMS FOR THE RIVER'S CRAFT SALE NEEDED

The River's Craft & Goodies Fair is coming up in October and they are looking for **donations of handmade crafts and goodies** for this fundraiser. If you are a baker, crafter, or maker, please contact Stacy Larsen at theriverministryforwomen@yahoo.com or 423-926-8111 to learn more about donating for the Fair.

And be sure to **SAVE THE DATE** for the sale: It's **Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Pavilion behind The River at First Presbyterian Church.

GIVING TO THE CHURCH

Besides online giving or dropping off or mailing a check, it is also easy (and free) to set up **automatic payments** through your banking institution or online BillPay. Thank you for continuing to support the work of Covenant Presbyterian Church. *If you have any questions, please contact Tina in the church office.*

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.

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.

STATEMENT ON MASKS

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

Out of an abundance of caution, we require participants attending indoor activities at Covenant to wear masks.



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.



TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgist:
Accompanist:

Jim Starr
Gary Smith
Anne Smith

CHURCH STAFF

Music Director:
Office Administrator:
Administrative Assistant:

Jessica Siple
Tina Simon
Anne Webb

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week of September 26—October 2, 2021

Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter.
Sharon Fuhrman, who is recovering from double pneumonia.
Gary Salazar, friend of Cynthia Erdei.
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

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, September 26

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

Monday, September 27

10a—3p Good Sam Food Dropoff
7:00p Local & World Wide Missions Comm Mtg on Zoom
7:00p NarAnon Mtg

Tuesday, September 28

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

Wednesday, September 29

10a—3p Good Sam Food Dropoff
Noon—2p Sanctuary reserved
7:00p Chancel Choir on Zoom
7:00p N.A. Mtg

Thursday, September 30

10a—3p Good Sam Food Dropoff
Noon Al-Anon Mtg

Friday, October 1

6:30p Al-Anon Mtg



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

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

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O God,

We joyfully come together to worship,
realizing we need not summon you into our midst,
for you are here.

We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts,
for you are there.

We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you,
our ears to be unstopped, that we may hear you,
our minds to be sensitive, that we may know you,
our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you
this day and always.

Amen.