

(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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We were created in relationship and for relationship.

People: **We are created for community!**

Leader: God knew it was not right for us to be alone.

People: **We are created for community!**

Leader: Through Jesus Christ,
God entered into human relationship with us.

People: **We are created for community!**

Leader: We rejoice in our unity with all humanity.

People: **We are created for community!**

*OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

**Creator and generous God,
you have given us a world of abundance and diversity.**

Yet all too often, we live guided by greed and selfishness.

**We confess that we have defaced your creation
and poisoned our environment.**

**You created us for relationship with you and each other,
and intend that we live in unity and peace.**

**Yet we have built walls to separate us
from those who are different.**

You gave us wisdom and creativity.

**Yet, we have used those gifts to oppress others
and to develop destructive and deadly weapons.**

We have not lived according to your will.

Gracious God, forgive us.

**Transform us so we will walk in your ways,
loving and caring for all of your beloved creation. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(based on 2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Leader: The apostle Paul proclaims that anyone in Christ
is a new creation.

People: **The old life is gone. A new life has begun.**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

People: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE PSALMS *(p. 554—OT)* Psalm 104:1, 10-24

GOSPEL READING *(p. 49—NT)* Mark 12:28-31

OLD TESTAMENT READING *(p. 2—OT)* Genesis 2:4b-9, 15, 18-23

SERMON Rev. Lee Clements

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION #273 *The Presbyterian Hymnal*

“O God the Creator”

1. O God the Creator, the Three in One,
The Creator of earth and moon and sun,
You have loved and protected us since time first begun,
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love, in God's love,
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love.
2. For the earth is our mother, where all things grow,
And her valleys are green where the waters flow,
Gentle deer and the eagle and the mighty buffalo,
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love, in God's love,
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love.
3. We are one in the Spirit, in the great mystery,
Walk together in beauty as we dwell in harmony,
Bringing all of God's children into one community,
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love, in God's love,
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(unison)* from the Iona Community, Scotland

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun
and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth to
the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He
ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his kingdom will
come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Ecumenical version)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom
come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our
daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against
us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right and our greatest joy,...
...with the whole creation.

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: We praise you...
...this feast of love and grace.

All: **Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit...
...now and forever. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion *(unison)*

**Holy God, we give you thanks that you have made us one
through this sacrament. In the power of your Spirit, send us forth
to share your reconciling love with all people and all of creation.
Amen.**

GOING OUT TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

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.

Resources used in preparing today's liturgy:

Rev. Jennie Gordon, "Call to Worship" <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=329> (accessed September 27, 2021)

The Iona Community, Iona Abbey Worship Book, 2001, pages 38-39, 53.

PC(USA) Book of Common Worship 2018, pages 28, 624-625.

PC(USA) Peace & Global Witness Worship Resources 2021 <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/resource/worship-resources/> (accessed September 27, 2021)

Rev. Dr. Laurel Koepf Taylor, "This at Last! An Intergenerational Liturgy for World Communion Sunday, Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost" <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/pentecost-19-world-communion-october-3/> (accessed September 27, 2021)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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.

5 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

There is a separate Offering Plate in the back for the 5 Cents a Meal Offering. You are asked to consider giving 5 cents for each meal you have eaten last month (or any amount you wish) to help feed those who are hungry. This offering supports both local and global hunger programs.

(continued)

This morning we welcome the Rev. Lee Clements to the pulpit. Lee, a native of Louisville, KY, earned her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She served churches in Lexington, KY, and Martin, TN, until her retirement in 2015. Before attending seminary, Lee completed a career as a U.S. Naval officer. She is currently serving Covenant as Moderator of Session.

A NOTE FROM TINA

I will be out of town October 1—10. The church office will be closed. If you have an emergency, you may contact Pat Smith at 940-390-5607 or dalpsmith@gmail.com or leave a voicemail on the church phone. Messages will be checked.

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.

THE RIVER'S CRAFT & GOODIES SALE

The River's Craft & Goodies Fair will be held on Saturday, October 16, from 10 AM to 2 PM. The event will be held outside under the pavilion behind The River and in back of First Presbyterian. All proceeds from the sale benefit The River. The will feature handcrafted items, themed baskets, a game of chance, and yummy goodies!!

NEWSLETTER

The OCTOBER COURIER has been emailed or snail-mailed to you. There are extra copies on the table if you want one. You will also 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.

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!

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.*

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgist:

Jim Starr
Lauri Zembower

CHURCH STAFF

Music Director:
Office Administrator:
Administrative Assistant:

Jessica Siple
Tina Simon
Anne Webb

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week of October 3—9, 2021

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

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.



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
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.)"

Covenant Presbyterian Church



OCTOBER 3, 2021 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you forever.

~Malabar Liturgy

from *The Complete Book of Christian Prayer*