

(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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

GREETING

Leader: Surely God is our salvation.
People: **Trust in the Lord and do not be afraid.**

PRELUDE "Blessed Assurance" arr.: Joel Raney

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 16

Leader: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord,
"You are my God; I have no good apart from you."

People: **The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
my lot is in God's hands.**

Leader: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places.
I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night my heart instructs me.

People: **I keep the Lord always before me;
because God is at my right hand,
I shall not be moved.**

Leader: My heart is glad and my soul rejoices; I rest secure.

People: **Lord, show us the path of life!
Let us find joy in your presence as we worship you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Lord, you are the God of all people, the Creator of all good things. Forgive us when we fail to see the good. Forgive us when we refuse to see the 'all.' We are searching for your presence and grasping for your grace, unable to believe that we cannot be separated from your love. Forgive us, God of mercy, and free us to try again, through Christ our Redeemer in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends: As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for us; as far as the east is from the west, so far will the Lord remove our transgressions.

Hear the Good News: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

SHARING 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

FIRST LESSON (p. 224—NT)

Hebrews 10:11-25

SECOND LESSON (p. 50—NT)

Mark 13:1-8

SERMON

Rev. Maggie Rust

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *The Heidelberg Catechism*

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. **That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of evil. He watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Christ, by his Holy Spirit, he assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

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.

HYMN OF REFLECTION # 353 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Praise Him, Praise Him" arr.: Mark Hayes

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

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.

GIVING STATEMENTS

Please check the table in the Narthex (or your church mailbox if you have one) and pick up your **3rd quarter (through October 31) Contributions Statement**. Please review them and don't hesitate to call the church office at 423-282-5324 if you have any concerns. Thank you.

THE MITTEN TREE

The Mitten Tree is a tradition here at Covenant. Every year we collect hats, scarves, and mittens for children in our area who need a little warmth during the winter. **This year we are adding hoodies to the list!** The tree is set up in the hallway across from the office. **Please bring hats, scarves, mittens and hoodies to hang on the tree.** The committee will distribute the items to the youth at Rise Up! for Kids. (You may drop off these items during the week too, just as you bring food for Good Sam.)

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR – NEXT SUNDAY, NOV. 21

Every year at this time, the Local and World Wide Missions Committee sponsors the **Angel Tree, the Mitten Tree, and the Alternative Gift Fair**. This is done to provide an "alternative" to typical gift giving during the holiday season. In addition to the Angel and Mitten Trees, the Missions Committee has selected six ministries to receive our support. On Nov. 21, during our worship service, we will have representatives from each of the following organizations:

- Holston Presbytery Camp
- The River
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- BABMOC
- Rise Up! for Kids
- Tri-Cities Latin X

Alternative Gift Fair Giving Forms are in your bulletins and will be on the table in the Narthex. Brochures will be available next week. Tables are in the process of being set up in the Narthex and the hallway so you can see and read something about each ministry. Alternative Gift greeting cards and envelopes will be on the tables, along with small cards describing each mission organization so that friends and family will know more about the gifts you've given in their honor. A basket for checks and order forms will also be on the table. You can pick up these materials on Sundays or during regular office hours, Monday–Thursday, 9:00am–4:00pm. Tina will buzz you into the building so you can leave your orders and help yourself to literature. The opportunity to give to these worthy ministry organizations will continue through the Advent season, so you will have ample time to participate.

The Local and World Wide Missions Committee hopes that you will take this opportunity to use some of your gift-giving dollars in support of these ministries. It is an opportunity to enrich the lives of not only the loved ones you are giving the gift to, but also the lives of untold numbers of others. They will all appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness.

PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

As we did last year because of the pandemic, we will again participate in the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree program **virtually**. We will receive a list of Angel tree children next week and will email it to the congregation. Anyone that would like to sponsor a child can do so from the comfort of their home by clicking the link in the email. There will be 20 Angel Tree children available. We're not sure of the details yet, but last year, at the \$42 sponsorship level, the package for the child included one \$40 Walmart gift card, a Christmas card containing the message from the prisoner, an evangelism piece, and an opportunity to request to receive a free Bible. It will likely be similar this year. If you have questions regarding the virtual Angel Tree program, please contact Melanie Jones, our Angel Tree coordinator, at 423-737-5392.

STEWARDSHIP

We encourage all of our members and regular attenders to stand together and pledge your financial support for the work of Covenant Presbyterian Church for 2022. It is from these pledges that our Administration & Budget Committee and Session are able to develop our budget for the coming year.

Last week was Stewardship Dedication Sunday. If you have not yet had the opportunity to turn in your pledge card for 2022, you may leave it in the offering plate, bring it or mail it to the church office, or send an email with your intention to office@cpcjc.org. Pledge cards and envelopes are in the pews in the Sanctuary and on the tables in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider making your pledge to Covenant for 2022.

GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

The **Good Samaritan grocery cart** continues 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! One of the grocery carts is in the Narthex 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!

POINSETTIAS

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary for the Christmas season, please fill out the enclosed order form and place it, along with your payment, in the offering plate. **Cost for the poinsettias is \$10 each.** Please make checks payable to *Covenant* and note "poinsettia" in the memo line.

HANGING OF THE GREENS – NOVEMBER 21

We will be decorating the church after our worship service next Sunday. Everyone who is able and willing to help is invited to stay and join us!

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.

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.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgist:

Jim Starr
Lauri Zembower

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:
Music Director:
Office Administrator:
Administrative Assistant:

Rev. Maggie Rust
Jessica Siple
Tina Simon
Anne Webb

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week of November 14—20, 2021

Maximus Silva, Dave & Julie Wood's 4-year-old grandson, who is in the hospital with a fever of unknown origin.

Christian Zembower, who fell and broke his jaw. He's home recovering from surgery.

Pat Zembower, Christian's mom, who has been diagnosed with uterine cancer.

Brian Wagoner, Christian's sister Shelby's boyfriend, who has Covid and has been placed on a ventilator.

Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter.

Sharon Fuhrman, who is still recovering from double pneumonia.

Sarah Campbell, Sharon Fuhrman's granddaughter.

Gary Salazar, friend of Cynthia Erdei.

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

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.*

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.

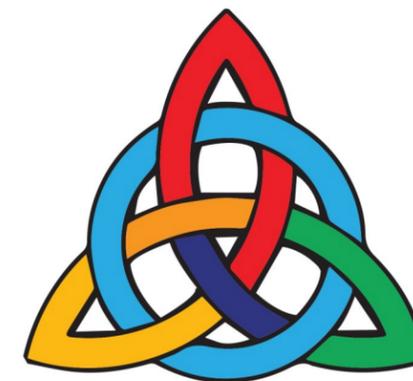


In the event of emergency, be aware that our Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Unit is located on the wall outside the front door of the Church Office.



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

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

NOVEMBER 14, 2021 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Loving God,

we gather to praise and worship you
and to pledge to you our loyalty and our service.

Bless our gathering and our remembering,
our hearing and our speaking,
that all honor and glory may be yours.

Bless us that we may be a blessing—
a blessing to you, to our community,
to our nation, and to our world.

We ask it in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.