

*(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: The day of the Lord is surely coming;  
People: **The promise of God will be fulfilled.**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Gina Long & Victor Moore

### **CHORAL PRELUDE** “*Creator of Beauty and Giver of Light*” Mark Schweitzer

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Psalm 25

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame.  
Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

People: **Lead us in your truth,  
for you are the God of our salvation;  
for you we wait in expectation.**

Leader: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,  
and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
Do not remember the transgressions of my youth,  
but with compassion look on me.

People: **Good and upright is the Lord;  
God's promises are sure.**

Leader: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.  
People: **We come to worship God who is our righteousness.**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

### **\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 82**

“*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*”

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: Coming Christ,  
People: **you may not find us as you hoped.  
We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see;  
we've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.  
We are numb to inconvenient truths.  
Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.  
Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.  
Sharpen our minds clouded by worry;  
sober our lives addicted to privilege.  
Show us the signs of your coming,  
that we may live in hopeful expectation,  
faithful in your service.  
This we pray through your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: The scriptures promise:  
the wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will bloom.  
The people of God will return with joy and singing.  
Give thanks to the God of our salvation  
and receive 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. 738—OT)

Jeremiah 33:14-16

### **SECOND LESSON** (p. 640—OT)

Isaiah 11:1-9

### **SERMON**

Rev. Maggie Rust

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*from The Confession of 1967*

**When the fullness of time came, God raised up Jesus. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, the perfect child of God, the just seed of David, the anointed Messiah whom we confess to be Emmanuel, God with us. It is Christ who calls the Church to be his servant and work for the reconciliation of the world.**

### **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.**

### **INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

### **\*HYMN OF BLESSING # 129**

“*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*”

## **GOING OUT TO SERVE**

### **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

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\*Please rise, in body or spirit.

**Large-print Hymnals** are available in the back of the sanctuary.

**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.

**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.

*The congregation expresses its deepest sympathy to the Zembower family as Christian's sister Shelby's boyfriend, Brian Wagoner, died from Covid last week.*

## **MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION—SUNDAY, DEC. 5**

There will be a **Meeting of the Congregation** immediately following worship **next Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** for the purpose of electing officers. The following are the nominees being presented by the Nominating Committee: Melanie Jones, Stacy Larsen, and Ron Smith.

## **POINSETTIAS**

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, 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.

## **ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR**

**Alternative Gift Fair brochures and giving forms** are once again in your bulletins. 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 the six ministries represented this year: BABMOC, Tri-Cities Latin X, The River, Holston Camp, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Rise Up! for Kids. 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. You will find greeting cards and envelopes in the Narthex, 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 is 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 MITTEN TREE**

**Winter hats, scarves, mittens, and hoodies** (*middle- and high-school sizes*)!! Let's load up The Mitten Tree and the box underneath it with these items until they are overflowing! The children at **Rise Up! for Kids** will appreciate the warmth they bring. The Mitten Tree is in its traditional spot—in the hallway across from the office. **NOTE:** hoodie sizes will be for middle- and high-schoolers.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

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](mailto:office@cpcjc.org). Pledge cards & 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**

We will continue collecting the following food items through the end of the year 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!

## 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 DECEMBER COURIER may or may not be on the table today. If not, it will be mailed and/or emailed to you early this week. You will also be able to find the newsletter and December's calendar on our website: [www.cpcjc.org](http://www.cpcjc.org). Please check with your committee leaders to see if you have a meeting scheduled this week. Tina's office hours may again be erratic, so call before you come if you need something from her.

## JEWELRY SALE FOR THE RIVER:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 FROM 2 – 4 PM

Kick off your holiday celebrations at Cynthia Erdei's Bi-Annual Jewelry Sale on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 4 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be goodies, laughter, friends to visit, and lots of necklaces and earrings to pick from. This is a great way to start your gift buying, whether for friends or family-or for yourself! As before, all profits go to The River Ministry, where women help women help themselves. (Covid-19 guidelines will be followed and masks are required.)

*The River provides women in poverty both a safe place to meet basic needs on a daily basis and additional support programs that educate and empower women for independent living while sharing loads of God's love.*

## 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.

## 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.

## TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:  
Liturgist:

Jim Starr  
Stacy Larsen

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:  
Music Director:  
Office Administrator:  
Administrative Assistant:

Rev. Maggie Rust  
Jessica Siple  
Tina Simon  
Anne Webb

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Week of November 28—December 4, 2021

Tommy Brown, Mary O'Keeffe's nephew-in-law, who is in heart failure.  
Christian Zembower, who is recovering from surgery on his jaw.  
Pat Zembower, Christian's mom, who was diagnosed with uterine cancer.  
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.  
All those in our community affected by Covid-19.

*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.

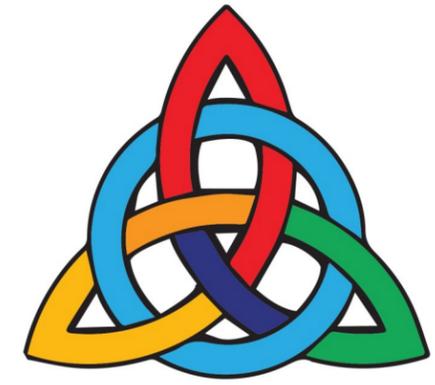


In the event of emergency, be aware that our Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Unit is located on the wall outside the front door of the Church Office.



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 28, 2021

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Almighty God, you built your church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the cornerstone.

Join us together by their teaching, so that we may be a holy temple in whom your Spirit dwells; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.