

(As we enter the sanctuary, let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.)

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

GREETING

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and all that is therein,
People: **The whole world and all who dwell in it give God glory!**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 150

Leader: Praise the Lord in the sanctuary;
Praise God in the highest heaven
for his powerful deeds and overwhelming glory!

People: **Alleluia! Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Praise the Lord with the blast of trumpet, with lyre and harp!
Dance before the Lord with stings and flute!

People: **Alleluia! Give thanks to God!**

Leader: Praise the Lord with loud crashing cymbals!
Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord our God!

People: **Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Alleluia!**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 242 *"Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded"*

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of life, you created us in your image to care for one another and all creation. Forgive us when we turn from you, ignoring the needs of our neighbors and the cries of the earth. Have mercy when we fail to live into your purpose of shalom. As the sun brings light and warmth to this earth, make us signs of your grace, through Christ, who is our light and life, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, our world, though broken and scarred,
still belongs to God, who holds it together and gives us hope.
The risen Christ is the firstborn of the new creation,
whose reign is righteousness and peace.
This is the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

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

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: May the presence and power of our risen Lord
fill you with all joy and peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 492—OT)

Psalm 8

*HYMN # 250

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

SECOND LESSON (p. 2—OT)

Genesis 2:4-9

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Maggie Rust

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *The Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)*

In sovereign love, God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, men and women, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator and ignore God's commands. We violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet, God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her children, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, our God is forever faithful.

*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

*HYMN OF BLESSING # 20

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

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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.

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WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad you are here. We invite you to fill out a Visitor Card, found in the pews. If you are seeking a church home, you are welcome to join us in discipleship as a community of faith and service. Pastor Maggie would be happy to talk to you about your journey.

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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING—TODAY

Last week we received the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. There is still time to give. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Thank you for your generous contributions.

FROM CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Betsy Moakler and Stacy Larsen are co-chairing the Congregational Life Committee here at Covenant Church and they need your help!! The mission of this committee is to provide both fellowship and care for our church family. As we continue to define our "new normal" during the pandemic, we need to better understand how the congregation is feeling about gatherings. We also want to see what activities you are interested in participating in. There is a brief survey on the table in the Narthex. Please fill it out and return it to the collection box located on the table outside the sanctuary where the bulletins are located or in the church office. On behalf of the Congregational Life team, thank you for sharing your thoughts and ideas. We look forward to serving you and our entire church family in the months ahead.

NAME TAGS AND CONTACT INFO

If you are a member or a regular visitor, or even if you have just started coming to Covenant, you **most likely** have a name badge hanging on the wall in the Narthex. We're asking **everyone** to wear their name tags while at the church to make it easier to get to know each other. **If you don't find one with your name on it, please let us know!**

Also, if you would like to be added to our **congregation-wide email list**, please send a message to Tina at office@cpcjc.org. Include your address and phone number if you feel comfortable doing so.

MOM POWER

Mom Power, the 10-week holistic and nurturing parenting program, begins this week at Covenant. This session marks our 4th year involved in this ministry. Please keep the Families Free staff, ETSU Psychology students, Covenant volunteers, and especially the 10 young mothers and their children in your prayers. We hope that the mothers will gain new parenting skills, a better understanding of themselves as parents and as beloved children of God so that they can nurture their children well. Thank you! Julie Wood is liaison for this ministry, so call her if you have any questions. 904 891-1922. And thank you to our 20 VOLUNTEERS! Some will provide transportation; some will provide meals and hospitality, and Eileen Madden will provide a child-led child care during the programs. This ministry couldn't happen without all of you serving.

GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

In April, we are collecting: **Canned Meats (tuna, Spam, Vienna Sausages, Ravioli, etc.) and Canned Veggies.** You may continue to drop off your contributions in the shopping cart outside the front door during office hours. On Sundays, the cart will be in the Narthex. If you wish to make a monetary donation, we will pass it along, too. Thank you for your generous donations to this local ministry!

STATEMENT ON MASKS

On behalf of Session:

Out of an abundance of caution, we require participants attending indoor activities at Covenant to wear masks, unless Washington County is in the Yellow or Green zone on CovidActNow.org. Then masks will be optional. The weekly email announcement to prepare for worship and the signs on the church doors will have that week's color status. They may differ if the status changes after Tina posts the signs and sends the email.

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.”

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.*

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, April 24

8:30a	Issues Class on Zoom
9:30a	Sojourner's Class
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
10:30a	Chancel Choir
11:00a	Worship Service
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Monday, April 25

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
7:00p	Property Comm Mtg

Tuesday, April 26

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
10:00a	Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p	Al-Anon Mtg

Wednesday, April 27

9:30a – 2:00p	Mom Power
10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
7:00p	Chancel Choir
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Thursday, April 28

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

Friday, April 29

6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg
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*Please see your April Courier
(extra printed copies are on the table in the Narthex)
for the full April calendar and for birthdays and anniversaries!*

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:

Liturgist:

Covenant Chancel Choir

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:

Music Director:

Office Administrator:

Administrative Assistant:

Jim Starr

Anne Smith

Rev. Maggie Rust

Jessica Siple

Tina Simon

Anne Webb

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you know of other reasons for rejoicing or concerns you would like to share feel free to complete a prayer card with your request.

Please contact the church office with any updates to this list.

Names will remain in the bulletin for three weeks

unless we are notified about a change.

Week of April 24—30, 2022

Lucas Schmidt, whose appendix burst and is now recovering from surgery.

Annette Mullins, Holly Bland's mother

Mary Elizabeth Armistead, Bob & Estelle's daughter-in-law, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Also her husband, Daniel.

BJ King's sister, Mary Lynn

Family of BJ King's office administrator

Jim & Norma Starr

Pat Smith's mother, Betty

Sharon Fuhrman

Rosemary Whitson's sister, Marshia Adams, and her niece

Pat Zembower, Christian's mom

Don & Anita Wolf, Julie Wood' parents

Ron Smith's sister, Rhonda and her husband Joe

Pat and Vickie Koppel, friends of Don & Patti Coble

Steve Jones, friend of Sharon Fuhrman

Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter

Sarah Campbell, Sharon Fuhrman's granddaughter

All those in our community affected by Covid-19.

The people of Ukraine, its neighbors, and the innocent people of Russia.

Join us in continually lifting up in prayer our mission co-workers:

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan

The Adams Maldonado Family: Frontera de Cristo

and these Covenant ministry partners:

UKirk ETSU (Pres. Campus Ministry) † Holston Presbytery Camp

LatinX Ministry † The River † BABMOC



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).

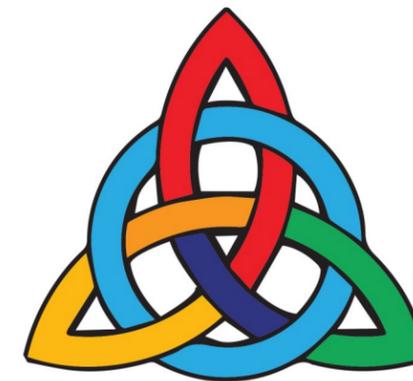
Covenant Presbyterian Church has been certified as a **Recovery Congregation** by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

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

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

APRIL 24, 2022 EARTH CARE SUNDAY

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.