

(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: Let us hear what the Lord will speak.

People: **God will speak peace to those who keep the faith.**

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** based on Psalm 125

Leader: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but endures forever.

People: **As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds the people, now and forever.**

Leader: The scepter of corruption will not last over the land allotted to the upright, the righteous will be spared the temptation to stretch out their hands for evil.

People: **Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart and practice justice in their lives.**

Leader: But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways, the Lord will lead away with the evildoers.

People: **May peace thrive in our country, our city, our community, our church!
Come let us worship the Lord!**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 766** *“The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Lord, you tell us who may abide in your presence and dwell in your courts: those who walk blamelessly, who do what is right, and speak truth from the heart. And yet, we confess that do not walk blamelessly, but often stumble on the path of faith. The truth makes us nervous, and we pretend to not know what is right. Have mercy on us, O God. Convict us in your wisdom, cleanse us by your grace, challenge us with your presence, and through your forgiveness, free us to try again. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Beloved of God, know this: the God of Presence, the God of Transformation, the God of Peace, hears our prayers and grants us the mercy to live together in shalom. Through 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 always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SOLO

“The Gift of Love”

Hal Hopson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 228—NT)

James 1:22-27

***HYMN OF INVITATION # 77**

“Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old”

SECOND LESSON (p. 630—OT)

Isaiah 1:11-20

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 Confession of 1967*

Jesus Christ is God with us, the eternal Son of the Father, who became man and lived among us to fulfill the ministry of reconciliation between God and creation, and he is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete this mission. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which people are reconciled to God and to one another. God enables us to receive forgiveness as we forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as we make peace among ourselves. In spite of our sin, the Holy Spirit gives us power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all the world.

OFFERTORY

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 # 376**

“When All Is Ended”

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

All music reprinted/streamed under CCLI copyright licenses #20361799 & 11359569.

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. We invite you to fill out a Visitor Card, found in the pews, and place it in the offering plate. 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 and church membership.

COVENANT T-SHIRTS—DEADLINE TO ORDER IS TODAY!

You’ve seen them (they ARE pretty)...and now you want one!! Due to popular demand, we are placing another order for CPC T-Shirts. Order forms are enclosed.

SPECIAL GOOD SAM FOOD OFFERING

For the months of **September and October**, we will collect **canned fruit** to contribute to Good Sam’s holiday food boxes. **Their** goal is to fill 1,500 boxes of food, so **OUR** goal is to collect as many cans as we possibly "can" towards their goal. If you are unable to shop in person and you would still like to help, you may contribute financially, and someone will go shopping for you. Just make your check payable to CPC and note on the memo line "fruit for Good Sam". Thank you!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS—SAT., OCTOBER 1 FROM 1—2P

Bring your furry, feathered, scaled, or hooved pets to be blessed by Pastor Maggie in a brief service followed by treats, lemonade, a photo booth and goody bags. Please keep your pets on a leash or in a carrier. If they are too large to transport, or uneasy in a crowded area, feel free to bring along a photo of your pet that can be blessed.

A NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The current Issues Sunday School class continues to meet on Zoom at 8:30 AM on Sunday mornings. Some folks really liked the Issues class but wanted to meet in person so a new adult Sunday school class has been formed. The **Explorers Class** will be meeting on Sundays from 9:45 to 10:45 AM in the youth classroom. It's the room on the right before you enter the Fellowship Hall if you're coming from the Sanctuary. Contacts for this class are Elaine Warehime and Carlyn Sue Hoffman.

THE RIVER CRAFT & GOODIES FAIR

The River is holding its 10th annual Craft & Goodies Fair on **Saturday, October 8 from 10 am to 2 pm** in the basement of First Presbyterian Church at 105 S. Boone Street in Johnson City. There will be a variety of hand-crafted items and many tasty treats. There will be live music by the Bluebirds, door prizes every hour, and a Game of Chance for the opportunity to win a night at the Carnegie with a complementary couples massage and gift certificate to Wellingtons. All proceeds benefit The River ministry serving women and children through a variety of supportive services and the practice of radical hospitality. For more information contact Stacy Larsen at 423-926-8111.

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Name tags are 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 Tina know!

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.*



During each week of the Season of Peace, we'll be focusing on one of the four areas of peacemaking work the Presbyterian Mission Agency has invited us to consider. Week Three is Poverty and Race.

Poverty is complex and intersectional; sadly, racism and classism are well-documented and mutually reinforcing trends in our society. Engaging these difficult issues is central to the work of peace-making. The first step of addressing a problem is learning more about it. Watch one of these documentaries this week and allow what you hear and see to guide your prayers:

- The End of Poverty (2009) on Amazon
- The Line: Poverty in America (2014) on Amazon
- 13th (2016) on Netflix
- Explained: Racial Wealth Gap (2018) on Netflix

Remember that Covenant supports many mission partners in our community who provide aid to our poorest neighbors. Give to The River, Good Samaritan, Family Promise, or Melting Pot today.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, Sept. 18

8:30a	Issues Class on Zoom
9:15a	Sojourner's Class on Zoom
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
9:45a	(new) Explorers Class
11:00a	Worship Service
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Monday, Sept. 19

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
--------	-----------------------

Tuesday, Sept. 20

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

Wednesday, Sept. 21

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
7:00p	Chancel Choir
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Thursday, Sept. 22

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

Friday, Sept. 23

6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg
-------	-------------



Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud to have received the designation of being an Earth Care Congregation, through the PC(USA).

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeters:	Jim Starr & Stacy Larsen
Liturgist:	Lauri Zembower
Accompanist:	Liesl Huhn
Nursery:	Betsy Hagelberg & Anne Smith

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	Rev. Maggie Rust
Director of Music:	Dr. Matthew Potterton
Office Administrator:	Tina Simon

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 September 18—24, 2022

Pat and Vickie Koppel, friends of Don & Patti Coble; Bob Clark; BJ King's sister, Mary Lynn; Ed Wolff; Cynthia Erdei; Jeri DeWeese; Charlotte Brumit, Betsy Moakler's mother; David Armistead, Bob & Estelle's nephew; Annette Mullins, Holly Bland's mother; all those affected by gun violence; 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

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.”



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 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@cpjc.org ♦ www.cpcjc.org

Facebook: “Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)”



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022
15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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.