

*(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: Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!

People: **The night is gone; the day is at hand.**

#### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Mary O'Keeffe & Laura Phillips

***"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"***

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

#### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 121

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills –  
from where will my help come?

People: **My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth!**

Leader: The Lord will not let our footsteps slip;  
our Guardian never sleeps.

People: **The One who watches over Israel  
will never slumber nor sleep!**

Leader: The Lord is our Guardian; with God by our side,  
we have nothing to fear.

People: **God will keep us from harm;  
the Lord will keep our lives.**

Leader: The Lord watches over our leaving and our coming home,  
now and forever.

People: **Let us worship God together,  
the Lord who is our help and hope.**

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE # 347

*"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, you set before us the way of goodness and beckon us to follow you, but we disregard your teachings and disobey your word. You call people of every land to dwell in harmony, but we sow division and harvest discord. Your promises of peace sound like impossible dreams to people more accustomed to cruelty and competition. Forgive us, Lord. Make our hearts once again long for wholeness, justice and peace. Keep us ever watchful and awaken us to your Spirit's ways as we wait in hope for the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, in whom we pray. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Emmanuel is coming, God-with-us. It is Christ who reclaims,  
redeems, and restores all of creation.

Friends, by God's grace we are forgiven.

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

#### SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: May you see the glory of God in every place, in every face.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

#### ANTHEM

*"We Wait"*

Ruth Elaine Schram

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST LESSON (p. 27—NT)

Matthew 24:36-44

#### \*HYMN OF INVITATION # 362

*"Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"*

#### SECOND LESSON (p. 162—NT)

Romans 13:11-14

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*

**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 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.**

#### 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 # 107

*"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"*

#### \*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.

**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.

## 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.

## GREENING OF THE CHURCH—TODAY

Join us after worship to decorate the church for Advent!

## STEWARDSHIP

If you have not yet had the opportunity to turn in your pledge card for 2023, 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 & envelopes are in the pews in the Sanctuary and on the tables in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider making your pledge to Covenant for 2023.

## 2022 ANGEL TREE AT COVENANT

The Local & World-Wide Missions Committee is excited that this year's Angel Tree program will support local homeless or at-risk children who attend Johnson City Schools. Each child is in need of either clothing or toys (or both). If you would like to participate, you will find the Angel Tree set up on a table in the Narthex. There are 5 children—for each one there is a tag for an item (shirt, pants, shoes, etc.) Please choose and remove a child's tag (or 2) off the tree and take it with you. You will need to wrap the gift and attach a tag with the child's name to the outside of the present. **All gifts must be returned to the church office no later than Sunday, Dec. 11.** Thank you for supporting this very important local mission and spreading Christmas blessings to these children!

## ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

**The opportunity to give to the Alternative Gift Fair will continue through the Advent season.** Giving forms are in your bulletins. You will find the brochure, greeting cards and envelopes on a table 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.

## THE MITTEN TREE

Every year we collect hats, scarves, and mittens for children in our area who need a little warmth during the winter. The Mitten Tree is in its traditional spot—in the hallway across from the office. **Please bring hats, scarves, mittens and hoodies to hang on the tree.** They will be distributed to the youth at Rise Up! for Kids. **NOTE:** hoodie sizes will be for middle- and high-schoolers.

## GOOD SAM FOOD OFFERING

For November and December, we will collect **soup and canned beans.**

## 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.

## GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2023

If you would like to have a box of Giving Envelopes for 2023, please let Tina know. Be sure to tell her if you want a **box of 52** (1 a week) or a **box of 12** (1 a month).

## 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.”

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

### Today, November 27

8:30a	Issues Class on Zoom
9:15a	Sojourner's Class on Zoom
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
9:45a	Explorers Class
11:00a	Worship Service
<i>After worship</i>	<b>Greening of the Church</b>
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

### Monday, November 28

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
7:00p	Local & World-Wide Missions Comm Mtg

### Tuesday, November 29

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

### Wednesday, November 30

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
6:00p	Handbell Choir
7:00p	Chancel Choir
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

### Thursday, December 1

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

### Friday, December 2

6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg
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## TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Kathi Cary
Liturgist:	Hal Hunter
Nursery:	Patti Coble & Pat Smith
Accompanist:	Jeremi Lukanus

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	Rev. Maggie Rust
Director of Music:	Dr. Matthew Potterton
Office Administrator:	Tina Simon
Financial Assistant:	Anne Webb
AV Tech:	Harvey Trueblood

## 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 November 27—December 3, 2022

Cathy Eades, Jim Starr's cousin; Bob & Estelle's granddaughter, Maryn; Charlotte Brumit, Betsy Moakler's mother; Sharon Fuhrman; Vickie Koppel, friend of Don & Patti Coble; Doris Sanders; 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



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.

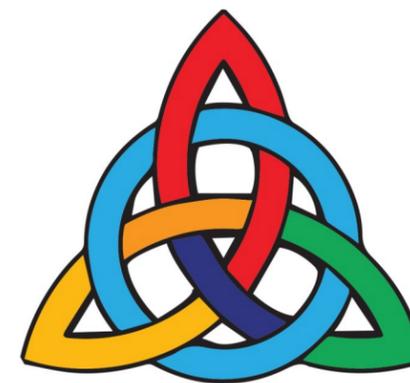


### *Covenant Presbyterian Church*

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

423-282-5324 ♦ fax 423-282-5346 ♦ office@cpjc.org ♦ www.cpcjc.org

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



# Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY**

**NOVEMBER 27, 2022**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## 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.