

*(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: Look, here is the Lamb of God!
People: **Jesus calls us: come and see.**

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Psalm 40

Leader: I waited patiently for you, O Lord.
Now at last, you have inclined your ear and heard my cry.
You have pulled me out of the pit of destruction,
out of its mud and quicksand.

People: **You set my feet on a rock and made my steps firm.
You put a new song on my lips;
my mouth is full of praise to you.**

Leader: Many will look in wonder and so will put their trust in you.
Happiness comes to those who trust in the Lord and keep faith.

People: **How many wonders you've worked for us, O Lord!
I want to recount them again and again,
but their number is too great.**

Leader: You have given me an open ear,
and so I desire to do your will, my God.
Your word is written on my heart.

People: **I will proclaim your justice in the assembly;
my voice will not be restrained.
Lord, do not withhold your love from me;
let your steadfast kindness and faithfulness endure forever.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 159**

"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the ages, we do not always wait with patience. We do not always sing your praise. We do not always recognize your work in our lives. We would rather take the credit for ourselves. We would rather take the easy way out. We would rather step on others on our way to the top. Forgive us for all the ways we forget you. Helps us to delight to do your will. Teach us to trust in you and return us to the path of righteousness, through Jesus Christ in whom we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news!
The Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world.
The Lamb of God takes away the sins
of each and every one of us.
Christ the Lord is merciful and forgiving of sin.

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

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God
our Father through the Lord Jesus Christ.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 679—OT)

Isaiah 49:1-7

***HYMN OF INVITATION # 751**

"From the Nets of Our Labors"

SECOND LESSON (p. 92—NT)

John 1:43-51

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

God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In his reconciling love, Christ overcomes the barriers between us and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary. The church is called to bring all people to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life: in employment, housing, education, leisure, marriage, family, church, and the exercise of political rights. Therefore, we labor for the abolition of all racial discrimination and minister to those injured by it.

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 # 343**

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

***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, 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.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION—TODAY

This morning, we will hold the **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** We will elect officers (elders) for the Class of 2025. The nominees being presented by the Nominating Committee are: Patti Coble, Ann Freeman, Hal Hunter, and Phyllis Thompson. We will review highlights of 2022, present the 2023 budget, and elect members of the church Nominating Committee for 2023, as well as officers of the corporation. (Please remember that no one should be nominated who has not previously been asked and agreed to serve.)

****2022 GIVING STATEMENTS** can be found on the table in the Narthex. Help us save postage—be sure to pick up your statement today!***

MISSION EVENT—SAT., JANUARY 21, 2023

The Adams Maldonado family from Frontera de Cristo will be in town next weekend! Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, Jan. 21 at 5:00 PM** for a **Potluck Dinner and Mission Presentation** by Mark & Miriam. The Mission Committee will provide a main dish; please bring a salad, side, or dessert to go with a Latin American meal. Mark & Miriam will also be with us for worship on Sunday. There will be a time of fellowship in the library following the service. Please plan to join us to meet our mission partners and learn more about their important work!

ELDER RETREAT & OFFICER TRAINING

An Elder Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, January 28th, beginning at 10 AM at the UKirk House on ETSU's campus. This will be an opportunity for church leaders to have fellowship and discuss the vision for 2023. It will also serve as officer training for the year. All active elders (including both the incoming and outgoing class) are strongly encouraged to attend!

GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

We are collecting the following food items on a regular basis: **Jelly/Jam; Peanut Butter; Canned Veggies; Canned Fruits; Dry / Canned Beans; Rice; Soups; Cereals (hot and cold); Canned Meats (Tuna, Vienna Sausage, etc.), Powdered Milk.** If you wish to make a monetary donation, we will pass it along, too. Thank you for your generous donations to this local ministry!

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING??

From serving on a committee (Communications/Outreach, Local & World-Wide Missions, Congregational Life, etc.), to bringing snacks for times of fellowship, to helping with cleanup after a church lunch, there are ample opportunities to be more involved and connected here at Covenant. Contact Tina in the office for more information! office@cpcjc.org or 423-282-5324

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.

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, January 15

8:30a	Issues Class—Zoom
9:30a	Sojourner's Class
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
9:45a	Explorer's Class
11:00a	Worship Service
Following worship:	Annual Meeting of the Congregation
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Monday, January 16

10a—3p Good Sam Food Dropoff

Tuesday, January 17

10a—3p Good Sam Food Dropoff
10:00a Al-Anon Mtg
6:00p Fellowship Hall reserved
7:00p Al-Anon Mtg

Wednesday, January 18

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

Thursday, January 19

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

Friday, January 20

6:30p Al-Anon Mtg

Saturday, January 21

5:00p Potluck Dinner & Mission Presentation

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Stacy Larsen
Liturgist:	Hal Hunter
Accompanist:	Jeremi Lukanus
Nursery:	Patti Coble & David Wood

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	Rev. Maggie Rust
Music Director (Jan. 18):	Katelyn Gabler
Office Administrator:	Tina Simon
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 January 15—21, 2023

Cathy Eades, Jim Starr's cousin; Allen White, Maggie's uncle; Charlotte Brumit, Betsy Moakler's mother; Estelle Armistead; Sharon Fuhrman; Vickie Koppel, friend of Don & Patti Coble; 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
Good Samaritan 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

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



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

JANUARY 15, 2023

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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.