

*(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: Tested in the wilderness, Jesus said:

People: **You shall worship the Lord your God alone.**

#### PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 32

Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose failures are completely covered.  
Happiness comes from the Lord  
not keeping count of your mistakes,  
from having nothing to hide and a spirit free of any deceit.

People: **As long as I kept my stubborn silence,  
my bones grew weak because of my constant complaints.  
My strength was sapped as by a summer's heat.**

Leader: But when I admitted my sin to you and stopped hiding my guilt,  
when I said, "I confess my rebellion to your ways, O Lord."

People: **Then you took away the guilt of my sin.  
You forgave me and set me free.**

Leader: Therefore, let all the faithful offer prayer to you, God of grace!  
You are a shelter for those in distress; you preserve and protect.

People: **Let us learn to walk in the ways of wisdom;  
to be glad in God and rejoice in justice and peace.**

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 446 *"How Blest, Those Whose Transgressions"*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we are so easily tempted. We turn away from your word so quickly, hearing only what we want to hear. We seek anything that claims to save us from discomfort, inconvenience, pain, fear, and emptiness. But these are false idols, dissolving in the wind. You alone are our true hope and salvation, our shelter, our guide, our guardian. We confess our transgressions to you: forgive us our sins.

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, be glad in the Lord and rejoice!  
God does not count our sins against us  
but offers us a free gift of righteousness and salvation.  
In Christ, we are forgiven.

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

#### SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: Be glad, you righteous, rejoice in the Lord!  
Shout for joy all you who are pure in heart,  
and the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Lift Every Voice and Sing"*

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 156—NT)

Romans 5:12-19

\*HYMN OF INVITATION # 783

*"When We are Tested"*

SECOND LESSON (p. 3—NT)

Matthew 4:1-11

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's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for the sake of the sheep, atonement made by a priest; it is ransom of a slave, payment of a debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the power of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory and theology in the depths of God's love for humanity. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work in Christ, in whom we find our present hope, faithful response, and new life.**

#### 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 # 166 *"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"*

\*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.

*Please join us in the Library after worship for After Church Snacks!*

## NEWSLETTER

The **MARCH COURIER** is on the table in the Narthex and/or has been emailed to you. There are extra printed copies on the table for those who want one. You will also be able to find the newsletter and March's calendar on our website under the "Media" tab: [www.cpcjc.org](http://www.cpcjc.org).

## TREE DAY AT COVENANT—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Covenant's role in the Tennessee Environmental Council's (TEC) Tree Day is to serve as a distribution site for seedlings. The Earth Care Team is looking for volunteers on **Thursday, March 16** to sort seedlings according to individual orders, wrap roots with wet newspaper and bundle for distribution; and on **March 17 & 18** (see hours below) to hand out bundles.

Friday, March 17: 1:00 to 5:00

Saturday, March 18: 10:00a to 1:00p

**If you are able to help**, contact Laura Phillips at [lauralivep@gmail.com](mailto:lauralivep@gmail.com) or text her at 304-546-7831.

## TREE DAY—ORDER DEADLINE IS TODAY!

If you're interested in getting seedlings **for yourself**, TODAY IS THE DEADLINE TO ORDER! You can order from the TEC website for a suggested donation starting at \$1.99/tree from a selection of 10 varieties. To order, go to <https://www.tectn.org/tennesseetreeday.html> where you will find a map of the distribution sites.

## LENT STUDY WITH WATAUGA AVENUE

We will once again be doing a joint study with our neighbors at Watauga Avenue Presbyterian Church through the Lenten season. **Beginning tomorrow, February 27, we will meet every Monday for six weeks at 6:00 PM**, alternating between Watauga and Covenant. The topic of the study is "**Church & Community.**" Come and join us for fellowship and learning together!

February 27: Watauga

March 6: Covenant

March 13: Watauga

March 20: Covenant

March 27: Watauga

April 3: Covenant

## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Nursery is available to children up to 3 years old. We are looking for 2 volunteers each week to serve in the Nursery. If there are no children by the time the first hymn begins, you may join the congregation in the Sanctuary. This is also a great opportunity to meet and greet folks as they come in. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

## GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

We are collecting the following items: **Canned foods with pop-tops** that are ready to eat "as is" for folks without resources to cook. Foods that do not require adding water or other ingredients would be ideal. Chef Boyardee canned foods, Vienna Sausages, Beenie Weenie, Soup, Fruit, Vegetable cups, etc. As always, if you wish to make a monetary donation, we will pass it along.

## COFFEE FROM CAFÉ JUSTO!

We are placing a group order for coffee from Café Justo as part of our partnership with Frontera de Cristo. There are order forms on the table in the Narthex. **The deadline to turn in your order form is Sunday, March 19, 2023.** The coffee should be here in time for Easter Sunday—a special treat!

## 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, February 26

8:30a	Issues Class—Zoom
9:30a	Sojourner's Class w/Zoom option
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
11:00a	Worship Service
<i>Following worship</i>	<i>After Church Snacks</i>
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

### Monday, February 27

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
<b>6:00p</b>	<b>Lent Study at Watauga Ave. Pres.</b>
7:00p	Local & Worldwide Mission Comm Mtg—Zoom

### Tuesday, February 28

<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Admin/Budget Comm Mtg—Zoom option</b>
10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
10:00a	Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p	Al-Anon Mtg

### Wednesday, March 1

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

### Thursday, March 2

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

### Friday, March 3

6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg
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### Saturday, March 4

7:00p	AA Mtg (Library)
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## TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Ron Smith
Liturgist:	Christian Zembower
Accompanist:	Jeremi Lukanus
Nursery:	Don Coble

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	Rev. Maggie Rust
Music Director:	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 February 26—March 4, 2023

Twin preemie daughters of the Easley family; Sharon Fuhrman; Vickie Koppel, friend of Don & Patti Coble; Allen White, Maggie's uncle; Cathy Eades, Jim Starr's cousin; Charlotte Brumit, Betsy Moakler'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  
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.

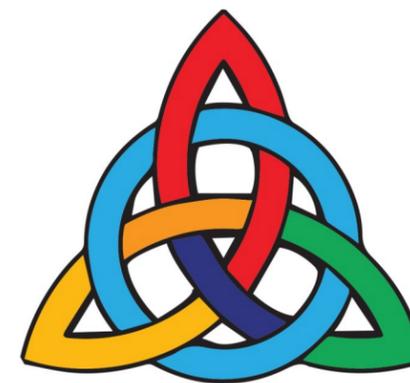


## *Covenant Presbyterian Church*

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**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2023**

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

## 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.