

*(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

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *One Great Hour of Sharing*

Cynthia Erdei

GREETING

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna in the highest!**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!

People: **Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!**

Leader: Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!

People: **Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!**

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna in the highest!**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 199

“Filled with Excitement”

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ our Redeemer, try as we might, we do not follow your example. We do not empty ourselves; we do not humble ourselves; we are not obedient. You simply ask us to care about this world you created and all that you called good, but we can’t do even that. Forgive us. In yourself, you have given us the greatest, clearest example of love. Heal us and help us to follow you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Even in the face of hatred and violence,
we know that Christ loves us.
Even when enduring death,
Christ cares for us; Christ forgives us.

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

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: The Lord God is your helper;
the one who vindicates and saves draws near!
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

*SPECIAL MUSIC

“Hosanna in the Streets”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 197—NT)

Philippians 2:5-11

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 197

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

SECOND LESSON (p. 23—NT)

Matthew 21:1-11

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 # 200

“A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd”

*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.

FINAL EXAM CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

are on the table in the Narthex hallway.
Today is the deadline to add items and sign cards.

**PLEASE JOIN US AT 2:00 PM THIS AFTERNOON FOR
A RECITAL WITH**

JEREMI LUKANUS & KATELYN GABLER

An offering will be taken to benefit the ministries at Covenant.
Suggested amount is \$5/person

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HOLY WEEK AT COVENANT (CONTINUED)

MAUNDY THURSDAY: *April 6, 6:00 PM*

Please join us for a Maundy Thursday potluck dinner and service.
Please bring a dish to share! (*Main, side, salad, or dessert of your choice.*)

GOOD FRIDAY: *April 7, 6:00 PM*

There will be a Good Friday Service at Watauga Ave. Presbyterian Church.
(610 E. Watauga Ave., J.C.) We encourage everyone to attend.

EASTER SUNDAY: *April 9*

Sunrise Service at 7:00 AM—This will be a brief service followed by refreshments.

Traditional Service at 11 AM in the Sanctuary.

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ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING—APRIL 9, 2023

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. Please plan to make a contribution to our One Great Hour of Sharing part of your Easter celebration.

CITIZEN’S CLIMATE LOBBY

We’re invited! CCL is having a meeting in the church library on Saturday, April 8 from 10 (or 10:30) - 12:30. The topic will be electric vehicles. There will be a guest speaker who will be bringing his Tesla for show and tell. The group is inviting members of Covenant to attend their meeting.

NEWSLETTER

The APRIL COURIER is on the table for those of you who did not receive it via email. There are extra copies if you would like a printed one. You can also find the newsletter and April’s calendar on our website under the “Media” tab: www.cpcjc.org.

Because of Easter and the Church Spring Retreat,
there will be no Stated Session Meeting
or After Church Lunch in April.

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.

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, April 2—Palm Sunday

Deadline for Student Care Packages

8:15a	Issues Class—Zoom
9:30a	Sojourner’s Class w/Zoom option
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
11:00a	Worship Service
2:00p	Recital w/Jeremi & Katelyn
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Monday, April 3

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
6:00p	Lent Study at Covenant

Tuesday, April 4

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

Wednesday, April 5

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

Thursday, April 6

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
Noon	Al-Anon Mtg
6:00p	Maundy Thursday Potluck & Communion Service

Friday, April 7

6:00p	Good Friday Service at Watauga Ave. Presbyterian
6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg

Saturday, April 8

10:00a	CCL Mtg (open to all, see announcements)
7:00p	AA Mtg (Library)

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.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist:	Betsy Moakler
Accompanist:	Jeremi Lukanus
Nursery:	Anne Smith

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 April 2—8, 2023

Annette Mullins, Holly Bland’s mother; Susan, friend of the Cobles; the family of Sharon Fuhrman; the Hyers family; twin preemie daughters, Ashlyn & Abigail (especially), of the Easley family; Jeff Lovelace (with our cleaning service); 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 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.)”
<https://www.instagram.com/covenantpcjc/>



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

APRIL 2, 2023

PALM 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.