

*(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 all who thirst come to the water;
People: **let all who are hungry come and eat their fill!**

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Psalm 95

Leader: Come, let us sing joyfully to God!
Raise a shout of joy to our rock, our deliverance!
Let us come into God's presence
with thanksgiving and sing our praises.

People: **For you, O Lord, are great!
In your hands are the depths of
the earth and the mountain peaks.
The sea belongs to you who made it,
and the dry land which you formed.**

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

People: **For you are our God, and we are the people you shepherd,
the flock under your care.**

Leader: O that you would hear God's voice today!
Do not let your hearts be hard or stubborn.

People: **We shall hear and see God's glory;
we have witnessed the Lord's mighty acts.
Come, let us sing praise and worship together!**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 372**

"O for a World"

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Jesus, friend of all, once again, we come to you knowing our words
have stung, our actions have harmed, and our indifference has let evil
have its day. Our hearts yearn for you, our souls thirst for you, yet we
do not imitate you in our lives. We scorn those who are different from
us, and we relish our own comfort. Once again, forgive us, God of
grace. Give us your living water, that we might tell the world all that
you have done for us. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, we know that God is with us even in our suffering,
for suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character,
character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us!
Because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the
Spirit, we are forgiven and restored.

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

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: The Lord keeps in perfect peace
all who have their minds stayed on him.
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. 155—NT)

Romans 5:1-5

***HYMN OF INVITATION # 479**

"Ho, All Who Thirst"

SECOND LESSON (p. 94—NT)

John 4:5-42

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Karen Russell

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 # 315**

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

***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.

This morning we welcome to the pulpit the Rev. Karen Russell. Karen Russell is the Transitional Executive Presbyter for Holston Presbytery. She is a graduate of Louisville Seminary, from which she holds two masters degrees. She enjoys superhero movies, Star Trek in any version, and will be happy to talk about those any time. She (and her mother) live in Johnson City.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for After Church Lunch!

APRIL COURIER DEADLINE

The **deadline** to send Tina articles, blurbs, meetings/events dates, or any other information you would like printed in the **April Courier and listed on the April calendar is Wednesday, March 15.** Please send your information via email to office@cpjc.org. Thanks!

TREE DAY AT COVENANT—VOLUNTEERS STILL 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 or text her at 304-546-7831.

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!

REST – RELAX – RESTORE

CHURCH SPRING RETREAT AT HOLSTON CAMP

As we noted a few months ago, we're planning a Church Spring Retreat for **April 14 – 16**, the weekend after Easter. Many of you indicated that you are interested and now is the time to **officially sign up!** Registration forms are on the table in the Narthex and will be posted on our website. The cost for the weekend (lodging and Friday dinner – Sunday breakfast) is \$150/person. If you would like to come on Saturday only, the cost is \$25/person (includes 2 meals). **All participants must be registered and paid by March 26th.** We hope you will join us for this special time of Rest, Relaxation, and Restoration!

LENT STUDY WITH WATAUGA AVENUE

We are once again doing a joint study with our neighbors at Watauga Avenue Presbyterian Church through the Lenten season. **We are meeting every Monday through April 3 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!

March 13: Watauga

March 20: Covenant

March 27: Watauga

April 3: Covenant

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.

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, March 12

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 Lunch</i>
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Monday, March 13

10a–3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
6:00p	Lent Study at Watauga
6p–8p	Black/White Dialogue at Jubilee

Tuesday, March 14

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

Wednesday, March 15—COURIER DEADLINE

10a–3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
<i>No Handbells or Choir practice this week</i>	
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Thursday, March 16

Tree Bundling Day!!!!	
10a–3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
Noon	Al-Anon Mtg

Friday, March 17

1:00p–5:00p	Tree Day Distribution
6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg

Saturday, March 18

10:00a–1:00p	Tree Day Distribution
7:00p	AA Mtg (Library)

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Ann Freeman
Liturgist:	Stacy Larsen
Accompanist:	Van Potterton
Nursery:	Anne Smith & Pat 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 March 12—18, 2023

Twin preemie daughters, Ashlyn & Abigael (especially), of the Easley family; Hope Lee; Sharon Fuhrman; Jeff Lovelace (with our cleaning service); Elaine Warehime; 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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<https://www.instagram.com/covenantpcjc/>



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

MARCH 12, 2023

3RD 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.