

(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: Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life.
People: **Those who believe in Christ will never die.**

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** based on Psalm 130

Leader: Out of the depths, I cry to the Lord. O God, hear my voice!
People: **Let your ears be attentive to my voice; hear my plea for mercy.**
Leader: Lord, if you kept a tally of our sins, who could stand before you?
People: **But with you is forgiveness and compassionate mercy. That is why we revere you.**
Leader: So, I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits, and in your word I trust.
People: **My soul longs for you, more than a sentinel that longs for the dawn.**
Leader: Put your hope in the Lord God, for you will find there abundant love.
People: **God will deliver us and raise us up.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (see insert) *“Out of the Depths I Cry to You”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of resurrection, we are familiar with the power of death. We have seen its work; we have felt its sting. We have been in the valley of despair and felt like there was no chance for life. We do not believe in your power to resurrect; we do not trust in your power to redeem our pain and fashion something beautiful for the world. Forgive us. When we cry from the depths, however faint our call might be, hear our voice and answer; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, in whom we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Thus says the Lord: You shall know I am the Lord when I open your graves and lift you up, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel! Believe in God’s promise and rejoice.
People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will give life to your mortal body and joy to your eternal soul. The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

***SPECIAL MUSIC**

“A Jubilant Song”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 806—OT)

Ezekiel 37:1-14

***HYMN OF INVITATION # 250**

“Hymn of Promise”

SECOND LESSON (p. 104—NT)

John 11:1-45

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 # 821**

“My Life Flows On”

***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.

ENTERED INTO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT:

Sharon Fuhrman —March 20, 2023

The congregations expresses its deepest sympathy to the family of Sharon Fuhrman in her death on March 20, 2023.

Please join us in the Library for Snacks after Worship.

Session is meeting this afternoon. Please be in prayer for our church leaders.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS TODAY!

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!

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HOLY WEEK AT COVENANT

PALM SUNDAY: *April 2, 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.*

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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SEE YOUR INSERT FOR DETAILS ABOUT...

A RECITAL WITH

JEREMI LUKANUS & KATELYN GABLER

on April 2, 2023 at 2:00 PM

in the Sanctuary at Covenant

and

FINAL EXAM CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

NEWSLETTER

The APRIL COURIER will be mailed or emailed to you this week. You will also be able to find the newsletter and April’s calendar on our website under the “Media” tab: www.cpcjc.org.

LENT STUDY WITH WATAUGA AVENUE

We continue to 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 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.

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 26—Church Retreat Registration DEADLINE

8:15a	Issues Class—Zoom
9:30a	Sojourner’s Class w/Zoom option
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
11:00a	Worship Service
following worship	Fellowship & Refreshments
1:30p	Session Mtg
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Monday, March 27

10a—3p *Good Sam Food Dropoff*

Tuesday, March 28

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

Wednesday, March 29

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

Thursday, March 30

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

Friday, March 31

6:30p Al-Anon Mtg

Saturday, April 1

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

Morning Greeter:	Ann Freeman
Liturgist:	Christian Zembower
Accompanist:	Jeremi Lukanus
Nursery:	Julie Wood & 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 March 26—April 1, 2023

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

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

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

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

<https://www.instagram.com/covenantpcjc/>



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

MARCH 26, 2023

5TH 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.