

*(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.)*

A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

***CALL TO PRAYER**

Leader: O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you,
People: as the day rises to meet the sun.
Leader: Open wide my lips,
People: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Leader: The Lord's unfailing love and mercy never cease,
People: fresh as the morning and sure as the sunrise.

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 664**

"Morning Has Broken"

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Friends, remember your baptism and rejoice!
People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN OF INVITATION # 14**

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

PRAYING THE MORNING PSALM

Psalm 104

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Leader: O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.
You stretch out the heavens like a tent;
you set the beams of your chambers on the waters;
you make the clouds your chariot;
you ride on the wings of the wind.
People: Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Leader: You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.
You cover it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
At your rebuke they flee;
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.
They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys,
to the place that you appointed for them.
You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.
People: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

(continued)

Leader: You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,
giving drink to every wild animal;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches.
From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Leader: You cause the grass to grow for the cattle
and plants for people to cultivate,
to bring forth food from the earth
and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
The trees of the field are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.
The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the badgers.
You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.
You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.
The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.
When the sun rises, they withdraw
and lie down in their dens.
People go out to their work
and to their labor until the evening.
**People: O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

Leader: These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Leader: May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to God,
for I rejoice in the Lord.

**People: Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Praise the Lord!**

(Pause for a time of silent reflection.)

God who spoke creation into being, astonishing the angels with galaxies and sunsets, all your creatures proclaim your majestic power and playful wisdom. Each morning you cause the sun to rise again and chase away the dark shadows of death. Each day you promise resurrection as you send forth your renewing Spirit, that we might be made fully alive again, discovering your holy purpose for us and delighting in your grace and glory. Grant us your grace today, O God, in power and peace; all this we pray through Jesus Christ, our Living Lord of Love. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, be our starting point and our haven, and accompany us on this day's journey. Use our hands to do the work of your creation, and use our lives to bring others the new life you give this world in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all, who taught those who would follow him to pray together:

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.

***HYMN OF BLESSING # 393**

"O Day of Rest and Gladness"

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Let us serve the Lord this day with gladness.
People: Amen.
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

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 in our 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:

Dean Borchers

The congregation expresses its deepest sympathy to Carol Borchers and her family in the death of Dean Borchers on Friday, April 7, 2023.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

Last week, we took up the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. There is still time to give. 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 give generously to this offering.

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 16

8:15a	Issues Class—Zoom
9:30a	Sojourner's Class w/Zoom option
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
11:00a	Worship Service
1p—4p	NA Reg. Mtgs
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Monday, April 17—COURIER DEADLINE

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
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Tuesday, April 18

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
10:00a	Al-Anon Mtg
3:00p	General Mission Board Mtg (Library)
4p—10p	Fellowship Hall reserved
7:00p	Al-Anon Mtg

Wednesday, April 19

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

Thursday, April 20

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

Friday, April 21

6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg
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Saturday, April 22

7:00p	AA Mtg (Library)
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MAY COURIER DEADLINE—MONDAY, APRIL 17

The deadline for the May Courier will be tomorrow, **Monday, April 17**. Please send all announcements and meeting dates/times for the May calendar to Tina at office@pcjc.org. Announcements should be written out with all of the details included. Thank you!

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

Liturgists:	Kathi Cary, Stacy Larsen & Mary O'Keeffe
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

Week of April 16—22, 2023

Susan, friend of the Cobles; Melissa Freeman; Annette Mullins, Holly Bland's mother; the family of Sharon Fuhrman; the Hyers family; twin preemie daughters, Ashlyn & Abigail, 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

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

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



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

APRIL 16, 2023

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.