

*(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: The earth is the Lord's and all that dwell therein;  
People: **Let all of creation sing praise to God!**

#### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 29

Leader: Give glory to God, O heavenly beings;  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!  
Give the glory that God's holy name deserves  
and worship the Lord in splendor!

People: **The voice of the Lord resounds over the water,  
the God of glory thunders over the sea!  
God's voice is powerful and full of majesty.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord snaps the cedars,  
shattering the strong cedars of Lebanon.  
The voice of the Lord strikes with bolts of lightning;  
the voice of the Lord flashes forth in flame.

People: **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the voice of God twists the oaks and strips the forest bare.  
And in the temple, all cry, "Glory!"**

Leader: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; God will rule forever.  
May almighty God give the people strength!

People: **May the Lord bless the people with peace.**

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE # 34

*"Bless the Lord, My Soul & Being!"*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all creation, you loved us into being, yet we often flee our rightful place in your creation. We confess that we exploit the gifts you place around us and dominate the richness of the natural order. Forgive our greedy grasping. We confess our part in the devastation of our planet home, mirrored in the violence in our cities, and the brokenness of our hearts. Forgive and restore us, nurturing God. Remind us of other ways to live and of our true home, where creation reflects your goodness, and each thing lives in balance with all others. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news: our world, though broken and scarred,  
still belongs to God who holds it together and gives us hope.  
The risen Christ is the firstborn of the new creation,  
whose reign is righteousness and peace.  
Friends, in Christ we are redeemed and forgiven.

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

#### SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: You have been born anew,  
not of perishable but of imperishable seed,  
through the living and enduring word of God.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Let There Be Peace On Earth"*

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST LESSON (p. 498—OT)

Psalm 19

#### \*HYMN OF INVITATION # 23

*"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"*

#### SECOND LESSON (p. 1—OT)

Genesis 1

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON

Rev. Laura Hicks Hardy

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *The Brief Statement of Faith PCUSA*

**In sovereign love, God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, men and women, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator and ignore God's commands. We violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet, God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her children, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, our God is forever faithful.**

#### 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 # 15

*"All Creatures of Our God and King"*

#### \*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 in our community of faith and service. Pastor Maggie would be happy to talk to you about your journey and church membership.

**This morning we welcome the Rev. Laura Hicks Hardy back to our pulpit.** Laura completed her MDiv at Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan last spring. She was ordained into ministry at Hopwood Christian Church in Johnson City where she has spent several years on staff. Laura pursued a call to ministry after 6 years teaching writing at King University in Bristol, TN. She also has an MA in English Literature from the University of Tennessee. She lives in Elizabethton with her husband, Jason, and their daughter, Clare. They enjoy gardening, reading, and exploring God's creation together.

#### FROM YOUR LOCAL & WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Sydnee De Busk, with the Johnson City schools, is needing support with her **food pantry** over the summer for the **at-risk and homeless children** that attend the Johnson City Schools. Let's see if we can collect enough of the following items to help feed these students! The deadline to bring your items, **OR** to make a monetary contribution so we can go shopping for you, is Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be a collection bin on a table in the Narthex.

*(Bear in mind that many of these children might not be living in a place that has a proper kitchen and therefore may not have access to a stove.)*

EZ Mac	Microwavable meals
Slim Jims	Peanut butter
Pop-tarts	Squeeze Jelly
Applesauce (cups/pouches)	Pasta noodles
Pudding cups	Spaghetti sauce
Granola Bars	Goldfish
Ramen Cups	Cheese-its
Beanie Weenies	Soup (pop-top can)
Microwavable Chef Boyardee Cups	Spaghetti -O's
Fruit Cups	Cereal
Snack Cakes	Oatmeal
Crackers	

### 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, April 23

8:15a	Issues Class—Zoom
9:30a	Sojourner’s Class w/Zoom option
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
11:00a	Worship Service
4:00p	Library reserved
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

#### Monday, April 24

10a—3p *Good Sam Food Dropoff*  
7:30p **Local & World-Wide Missions Comm Mtg (Zoom)**

#### Tuesday, April 25

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

#### Wednesday, April 26

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

#### Thursday, April 27

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

#### Friday, April 28

6:30p AI-Anon Mtg

#### Saturday, April 29

7:00p AA Mtg (Library)

### TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeters:	Lauri Zembower & Patti Coble
Liturgist:	Lauri 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 April 23—29, 2023

Sharon Benner; Susan, friend of the Cobles; Annette Mullins, Holly Bland’s mother; 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 23, 2023**  
**EARTH CARE 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.