

*(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 good shepherd.  
People: **Christ lays down his life for the sheep.**

### PRELUDE

*"Awake My Soul"* Hand Bell Choir

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 23

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I want for nothing.  
God lets me lie down in green meadows  
and leads me beside restful waters.  
My soul is refreshed.

People: **The Lord guides me to lush pasture land  
for the sake of God's holy name.**

Leader: Even when I am surrounded by shadows of death,  
I fear no danger, for you are with me.  
Your rod and your staff give me courage.

People: **You spread a feast before me  
in the presence of my enemies,  
and you anoint my head with oil.  
My cup overflows!**

Leader: Surely, goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,

People: **And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
for days without end.**

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE # 242

*"Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded"*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of community, you call us to a world radically different from what we are used to. You ask us to lay aside our ideas of 'mine' and 'yours.' You show us a life where goods are shared, where all are loved, and faithfulness is shown through generosity. But we cling to our possessions, trusting in them more than we trust in you. Forgive us, merciful God. Help us truly believe in your reign of just peace and help us work to make it real. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news:  
when we had strayed like sheep,  
Christ bore our sins in his body on the cross.  
By his wounds, we are healed  
and set free to live for righteousness.  
Now we have returned to the shepherd,  
the guardian of our souls.  
In Christ we are forgiven and reconciled.

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

### SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: Trust in God, who raises the dead,  
and put your hope in the Lord.  
The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"The Lord's My Shepherd"*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST LESSON (p. 120—NT)

Acts 2:42-47

### \*HYMN OF INVITATION # 802

*"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*

### SECOND LESSON (p. 103—NT)

John 10:1-18

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*

**New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of their sin. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace. Christian community nurtures and equips the faithful for ministry in the world.**

### 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 # 303

*"God the Spirit, Guide & Guardian"*

### \*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.

*Please join us in the Library after worship for a  
time of fellowship and refreshments.*

### COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY

The **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** will be celebrated next Sunday. Take time this week to prepare yourself in prayer and meditation, and don't forget your 5 Cents a Meal Offering.

### NEWSLETTER

The **MAY COURIER** is on the table in the Narthex and/or has been emailed to you. There are extra printed copies on the table for those who want one. You will also be able to find the newsletter and May's calendar on our website under the "Media" tab: [www.cpcjc.org](http://www.cpcjc.org).

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

Sydnee De Busk, with the Johnson City schools, needs support for the **food pantry** over the summer for **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 is 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	Peanut butter	Crackers
Slim Jims	Squeeze Jelly	Oatmeal
Pop-tarts	Pasta noodles	Goldfish
Pudding cups	Spaghetti sauce	Spaghetti -O's
Granola Bars	Cheese-its	Soup (pop-top can)
Ramen Cups	Cereal	Snack Cakes
Fruit Cups	Beanie Weenies	Microwavable meals
Microwavable Chef Boyardee Cups		
Applesauce (cups/pouches)		

### 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 30

8:15a	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>Refreshments in the Library</i>
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

#### Monday, May 1

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
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#### Tuesday, May 2

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
10:30a	Presbytery Meeting at Camp
10:00a	Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p	Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p	Alateen Mtg

#### Wednesday, May 3

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

#### Thursday, May 4

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
Noon	Al-Anon Mtg
3:30p	Cong. Life Comm Mtg

#### Friday, May 5

6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg
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### TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeters:	Lauri Zembower & Patti Coble
Liturgist:	Christian Zembower
Accompanist:	Jeremi Lukanus
Nursery:	Betsy Moakler

### 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 30—May 6, 2023

Betty Thompson, Phyllis’ mom; 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*

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Facebook: “Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)”  
<https://www.instagram.com/covenantpcjc/>



# Covenant

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY**

**APRIL 30, 2023**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> 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.