

*(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: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

People: **Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!**

PRELUDE "Bells of Easter Morning" Covenant Handbell Choir

*THE LITANY FOR EASTER

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

People: **Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

Leader: This is the good news that we have received,
in which we stand, by which we are saved:

People: **Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

Leader: That Christ died for our sins, and was buried,
and rose again on the third day.

People: **Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

Leader: He appeared to Mary, to Peter and the twelve,
and to many faithful witnesses.

People: **Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

Leader: And he has come to us by the Spirit, that we might believe
and proclaim this good news to all the world.

People: **Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 233 "The Day of Resurrection!"

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Resurrected Christ, there is nothing we can do to deserve the grace you give us. There is no way we can earn your love; there is no way we can be worthy of your forgiveness. And yet, you shower these mercies on us. You, who have taken away the sting of death, meet us where we are, in our doubt and fear, in our regret and shame, in our delight and awe. Holy Lord, meet us here in this place, and call us once again to trust in your word and promises. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God says to us:
I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have continued my faithfulness to you.
We need not fear; we are forgiven,
we are loved, we are redeemed!

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

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: The Prince of Peace has conquered death and given us the victory.
Jesus Christ is the Lord of Life.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

*SPECIAL MUSIC

"Sing Hallelujah"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 565—OT)

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 231 "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers"

SECOND LESSON (p. 33—NT)

Matthew 28:1-10

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Maggie Rust

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 238

"Thine Is the Glory"

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy...
...forever sing to the glory of your name:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: You are holy, God of majesty...
...the mystery of faith:

**All: Dying you destroyed our death.
Rising you restore our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

(continued)

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit...
...almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**All: 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.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF BLESSING # 245 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today!"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

All music reprinted/streamed under CCLI copyright licenses #20361799 & 11359569.

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

5 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

There is a separate Offering Plate in the back for the 5 Cents a Meal Offering. You are asked to consider giving 5 cents for each meal you have eaten last month (or any amount you wish) to help feed those who are hungry. This offering supports both local and global hunger programs.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING—APRIL 9, 2023

This morning we take up the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. 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.

MAY COURIER DEADLINE—MONDAY, APRIL 17

The deadline for articles to be placed in the Courier is the 15th of every month. As the 15th falls on Saturday in April, the deadline for the May Courier will be on Monday, April 17. Please send all announcements and meeting dates/times for the May calendar to Tina at office@cpcjc.org. Announcements should be written out with all of the details included. Thank you!

Because of Easter and the Church Spring Retreat, there will be no Stated Session Meeting or After Church Lunch in April.

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, April 9—Easter Sunday

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

Monday, April 10

10a–3p	<i>Good Sam Food Dropoff</i>
6:00p–8:00p	Black/White Dialogue at Carver

Tuesday, April 11

10a–3p	<i>Good Sam Food Dropoff</i>
10:00a	Al-Anon Mtg
6:00p	Outreach/Communications Comm Mtg
7:00p	Al-Anon Mtg

Wednesday, April 12

10:30a	Worship Comm Mtg
10a–3p	<i>Good Sam Food Dropoff</i>
1:30p	Friendship Circle
6:00p	Handbell Choir
7:00p	Chancel Choir
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Thursday, April 13

10a–3p	<i>Good Sam Food Dropoff</i>
11:30a	Joy Circle
Noon	Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p	Red Tent Circle

Friday, April 14

Church Spring Retreat at Holston Camp	
6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg

Saturday, April 15

Church Spring Retreat at Holston Camp	
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:	Ron Smith
Accompanist:	Jeremi Lukanus
Nursery:	Julie Wood & Anne 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 April 9—15, 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
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

APRIL 9, 2023

EASTER 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.