

*(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

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Pentecost Offering

Don Coble

GREETING

Leader: We are witnesses: the Lord is risen!

People: **Christ has ascended to reign on high.**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 47

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy!
For the Lord Most High is awe-inspiring,
the great ruler over the earth.

People: **God chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Leah, Rachel and Jacob,
a people whom God loves.**

Leader: The Lord has ascended to the throne with a shout,
with trumpet blasts! Sing praise to God, sing praises!

People: **For God rules over all the earth –
sing praises, pray, and grow in wisdom.**

Leader: God reigns over every nation;
the Lord is seated on the holy throne.
The leaders of the people gather,
the children of Sarah and Abraham who worship their God.

People: **The Lord will shield them.
The earth belongs to God who created and reigns over it,
who is highly exalted over all.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 267

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ who was and is and is to come, we confess that our faith is sometimes weak, our love for others faint, our prayers timid. We stand looking up at the heavens, searching for you there and feeling far from you. Forgive us for believing you have left us. Forgive us for failing to recognize you in the world around us. Forgive us for waiting idly for your return, instead of doing the work you have called us to do. Draw near to us in mercy and fill us with the power of your grace. Help us to embody you in our time and place, today, tomorrow, and forevermore. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Beloved people of God:
Christ who reigns on high is the one with power to judge us,
and Jesus offers us mercy, pardon, and eternal life.
Therefore, proclaim the good news to the ends of the earth:

People: **through the grace of Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: Friends, know that the risen and ascended Lord
promises to be with us forever;
the peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 191—NT)

Ephesians 1:15-23

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 260

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

SECOND LESSON (p. 118—NT)

Acts 1:1-11

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*

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as Christ's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares the labor of healing the enmities which separate us from God and each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given us the gift of the Holy Spirit to recognize and continue this ministry. Wherever the church exists, its members are both gathered in communal life and dispersed in society for the sake of mission 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 # 295

“Go to the World!”

*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.

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.

Pastor Maggie will be out of the office this week. She will be back for next week's Pentecost service.

PENTECOST OFFERING—MAY 28, 2023

Next Sunday we will receive the Pentecost Offering. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church as a whole to encourage, develop and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Offering will remain with Covenant and will be given to local mission projects making an impact in the lives of young people within our own community. Please give generously.

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 25th**. 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
Slim Jims	Squeeze Jelly
Pop-tarts	Pasta noodles
Pudding cups	Spaghetti sauce
Granola Bars	Cheese-its
Ramen Cups	Cereal
Fruit Cups	Beanie Weenies
Crackers	Spaghetti -O's
Oatmeal	Soup (pop-top can)
Goldfish	Snack Cakes
Microwavable Chef Boyardee Cups	
Applesauce (cups/pouches)	
Microwavable meals	

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CAMP AT HOLSTON IS OPEN!

All kids between 3rd and 12th grade are eligible to come to camp. Check out their website at **holstoncenter.org** for registration and details about special camp offerings like Night Owl and Water Chihuahuas! Scholarships are available, feel free to ask Pastor Maggie for more details.

NAME TAGS AND CONTACT INFO

If you are a member or a regular visitor, or even if you have just started coming to Covenant, you **most likely** have a name badge hanging on the wall in the Narthex. (to the left of the door to the Library) We're asking **everyone** to wear their name tags while at the church to make it easier to get to know each other. **If you don't find one with your name on it, please let us know!** Also, if you would like to be added to our **congregation-wide email list**, please send a message to Tina at office@cpcjc.org. Include your address & phone number if you feel comfortable doing so.

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, May 21

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

Monday, May 22

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
7:30p	Local & World-Wide Comm Mtg

Tuesday, May 23

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

Wednesday, May 24

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

Thursday, May 25

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
Noon	Al-Anon Mtg
3:30p	Fellowship Hall Reserved

Friday, May 26

6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg
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TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Kathi Cary
Liturgist:	Christian Zembower
Accompanist:	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 May 21—27, 2023

Carlene Adams; 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

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.)”



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

MAY 21, 2023

7TH 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.