

*(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: How can we know the way of God?
People: **Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 31

Leader: In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame!
In your justice, deliver me.

People: **Incline your ear and answer me quickly.
Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**

Leader: Lord, you are indeed my rock, my fortress;
for the sake of your holy name, lead and guide me.

People: **Rescue me from the snares that lay in wait.
Let me rest secure in you, my God.**

Leader: Into your hands I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, faithful Lord.

People: **You are the God of truth; in you do I trust.**

Leader: You are my Lord, the faithful God of my deliverance.
All of my days are in your hands.

People: **Let your face shine upon your servant
and save me in your steadfast love.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 327 *"From All that Dwell Below the Skies"*

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ, our way, our truth, our life, you have shown us the way, so clearly and fully. You have not simply told us how to live, you have shown us. But we still don't get it. We do not believe in your word; we do not trust in your way of life. Help us, O God and forgive us. Open our ears to your truth, open our eyes to your way, and lead us into new and abundant life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Beloved, believe the good news:
Jesus prepares a place for us, Christ brings us close to himself,
God answers us even in our unbelief. We are God's beloved
people, and in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: Jesus says, 'Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God,
believe also in me.' The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 108—NT)

John 14:1-12

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 361

"O Christ, the Great Foundation"

SECOND LESSON (p. 233—NT)

1 Peter 2:2-10

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.

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: In every time and every age...
...join their unending hymn:

**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: Blessed are you, O God...
...the mystery of faith:

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

Leader: Blessed are you, O Spirit ...
....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 # 511

"Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven"

*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.

5 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

The basket is out 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.

AFTER CHURCH LUNCH—MAY 14

Join us in the Fellowship Hall next Sunday, May 14, for After Church Lunch. The theme this month, in honor of Mother's Day, is **Mom's Favorite Recipes**. Please bring a dish or a side or a dessert you enjoyed while growing up to share with the congregation.

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	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)		

BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023

"CONNECTING TO OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY"

Join us for a group meal in the gym at the Carver Rec Center on Monday, May 8 beginning at 6:00 PM! Food will be provided by Taste Budz. Contributions at the door are encouraged to cover the cost. Contact Tina for more info.

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 7

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 8

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
1:00p	Sound Team Mtg
6p—8p	Black/White Dialogue at Carver

Tuesday, May 9

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

Wednesday, May 10

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
1:30p	Friendship Circle
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Thursday, May 11

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
11:30a	Joy Circle
Noon	Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p	Red Tent Circle

Friday, May 12

6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg
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TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgist:
Accompanist:

Kathi Cary
Betsy Moakler
Anne Smith

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:
Music Director:
Office Administrator:
AV Tech:

Rev. Maggie Rust
Katelyn Gabler
Tina Simon
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 7—13, 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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Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

MAY 7, 2023
5TH 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.