

**JULY 9, 2023**

**6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



**Covenant**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY**

**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.



Covenant is proud to be an **Earth Care Congregation**, a **More Light Church** – supporting the LGBTQ+ community, and a **PC(USA) Matthew 25 Church** – committed to dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty, and building congregational vitality.

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

423-282-5324 ♦ office@cpcjc.org ♦ www.cpcjc.org

Facebook: "Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)"

*(As you participate in worship today, you're invited to rise in body or spirit at \* and read aloud the **bolded** responses together with the congregation.)*

**GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

**WELCOME**

**GREETING**

One: The word of God is near to us.

**All: Those who call on the Lord will be saved.**

**PRELUDE**

*"Amazing Grace"*

John Newton (arr. Giamanco)

*Susan Reynolds, bassoon; Rachel Acuff Ribble, piano*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 121

One: I lift my eyes up to the mountains – from where will my help come?

**All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!**

One: God won't let our footsteps slip: our Guardian never sleeps.

**All: God who watches over us, never slumbers; never sleeps!**

One: The Lord is our shade. With God at our side, the sun cannot overpower us by day, nor the moon at night. The Lord guards our lives from harm.

**All: God will watch over our going out and our coming home again, now and forever.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 35**

*"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Lord God, you know the ways of good and evil. You know the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. You know our shame and sin and the ways we long to do better. We have disobeyed your word, we have tried to rely on our own cleverness and strength rather than trusting in you, we have chosen poorer paths and not lived in love as you intend; in all of this, have mercy on us. Cover us with your grace and re-create us in your image, through Jesus Christ our Savior in whom we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven.

With God's grace, they no longer suffer in silence but shout for joy!

Friends, hear the good news and be glad: in Christ we are forgiven.

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

**SHARING THE PEACE**

One: Be glad, you righteous, rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy,  
all who are reconciled in God! The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

ANTHEM *“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”* Sebastian Temple  
*Jennifer Ribble, alto; Rachel Acuff Ribble, piano*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

FIRST LESSON (p. 3—NT) Matthew 4:1-11

\*HYMN OF INVITATION # 353 *“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”*

SECOND LESSON (p. 548—OT) Psalm 91

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Rev. Maggie Rust

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *the Westminster Catechism*

Q: What is prayer and how are we to pray?

A: **Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ and by the help of the Spirit. With confession of our sin and thankful acknowledgement of God’s grace, mercy, and blessings, we pray for the welfare of the church, our own and others’ good, and for the world, that all things might tend to the glory of God. We pray with a great estimation of the majesty of God and deep sense of our own humility; with penitent, thankful and enlarged hearts; with understanding, faith, sincerity, fervency, love, and perseverance; waiting upon God’s holy will.**

OFFERTORY *“Be Thou My Vision”* Traditional Irish Melody (arr. Bober)  
*Monet Harriman, Piano*

**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 # 832 *“Kwake Yesu Nasimama”*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *How Firm a Foundation* Joseph Funk (arr. Berry)  
*Rachel Acuff Ribble, Piano*

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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. **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 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.

*We offer our thanks to Monet Harriman, Susan Reynolds, and Rachel & Jenny Ribble for sharing their gifts of music in worship this morning.*

***Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for our Second Sunday Potluck!***

*Session is meeting this afternoon. Please be in prayer for our church leaders.*

**Pastor Maggie will not be in the office this week.** She’s going to Holston Presbytery Camp to be the Camp Chaplain. If you have an emergency, please contact Tina in the church office at 423-282-5324 or on her cell at 423-342-8351.

**TODAY AT COVENANT**

Liturgist: Gary Smith Accompanist: Rachel Ribble

**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust Office Administrator: Tina Simon  
Music Director: Katelyn Gabler AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood