

JULY 16, 2023

7TH 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

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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: Let the righteous be joyful!

All: Let us all be jubilant before the Lord!

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 145

One: I will extol you my God and bless your name forever and ever!

Every day I will bless you, for a thousand generations;

I will praise your holy name forever and ever!

All: Great are you, Lord, and greatly to be praised!

Your greatness is unfathomable.

One: Generation after generation praises your works and proclaims your mighty deeds; they speak of your splendor and glorious majesty!

All: Let us declare God's awesome deeds and exalt God's greatness.

Because the Lord is abundantly good, we will joyfully sing of God's justice.

One: Lord, you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. You are good to all and compassionate to all your creatures.

All: My mouth will speak your praise, O Lord!

May all creation bless your name forever and ever!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 619

"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of Love, we confess that we do not always bring honor and glory to your name; we have failed to show the world a glimpse of the goodness you have given us. We have sought our own comfort and resigned ourselves to the status quo. Forgive us, and strengthen us to do your will, that we may rise again in peace to love and serve your world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, God hears our prayers and responds

to our longing for forgiveness with mercy.

Be at peace and give thanks; in Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

One: Rejoice in the Lord and be glad; God's reign is righteousness and peace.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (*p. 111—NT*)

John 17:1-5

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 354

"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

SECOND LESSON (*p. 248—NT*)

Revelation 7:9-12

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

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 # 634

"To God Be the Glory"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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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.

AUGUST COURIER DEADLINE

The **deadline** to send Tina articles, blurbs, meetings/events dates, or any other information you would like printed in the **August Courier** and **listed on the August calendar is Monday, July 17**. Please send your information via email to office@cpcjc.org. Thanks!

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

Join Covenant folks on **Tuesday, July 18** for the Johnson City Doughboys game! Come out to root for the home team at TVA ballpark and enjoy a fun time of fellowship together. No need to RSVP, just purchase your ticket at the gate and look for familiar faces in the crowd.

COFFEE FROM CAFÉ JUSTO!

We are placing another group order for coffee from Café Justo as part of our partnership with Frontera de Cristo. Please use the green order forms on the table and specify 'Ground' or 'Whole Bean' **AND** 'Dark' or 'Medium'!! **The deadline to turn in your order form is Sunday, July 30.**

TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Christian Zembower

Accompanist: Liesl Huhn

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood