

JULY 23, 2023

8TH 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: Your creation gives thanks to you, O God.

All: **And we, your faithful, bless you.**

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, until the end of the age.

For you are great, and greatly to be praised!

All: **Let us exalt God's greatness and declare the awesome deeds of the Lord! God is good to all, compassionate to all creation, full of grace and love.**

One: God, you are faithful in all your words, and merciful in all your works.

We have witnessed the wonder of your reign, the glory of your dominion.

All: **The eyes of all look to you in hope, O God. You grant them food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.**

One: You are just in all your ways.

You lift up those who are falling and raise up the oppressed.

You are near to all who call on you, all who call on you in truth.

All: **You fulfill the desires of those who revere you; you watch over all who love you, O Lord, and save them. Let all creation bless your name forever and ever.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 667

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Christ, when the crowds surrounded you, hungry for bread and for your word, you took an offering – five loaves and two fish – and made a feast for thousands. Still, O Lord, we doubt the abundance of your grace. We are hesitant to share the gifts we have, and we wonder whether there is enough for all. Forgive us, O God, and make us a more generous people. Empower us to share the gifts you've given us, for you are the provider of grace upon grace, the One who turns want into plenty. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news!
There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ;
the Spirit has set us free from sin and death.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life is gone, and a new life has begun.
Friends, in Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

One: May you know in your lives the love of Christ, that surpasses all knowledge,
and so be filled with the love and fullness of God.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 193—NT)

Ephesians 3:14-21

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 498

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

SECOND LESSON (p. 97—NT)

John 6:1-14

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Ron Smith

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *the Confession of 1967*

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women in mercy. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love.

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 # 515

“I Come with Joy”

*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.

We welcome our own Ron Smith to the pulpit today! Pastor Maggie is away on vacation. If you have an emergency, please contact Tina in the church office at 423-282-5324 or on her cell at 423-342-8351.

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 in your bulletins or on the table and specify ‘Ground’ or ‘Whole Bean’ **AND** ‘Dark’ or ‘Medium’!! **The deadline to turn in your order form is NEXT Sunday, July 30.**

BACKPACKS FOR BABMOC!

BABMOC is kicking off their annual “Backpacks for BABMOC” Campaign! **Backpacks can be filled with school supplies such as pens, pencils, erasers, composition books, pencil sharpeners, compasses, rulers, protractors, and glue sticks.** You may bring these supplies on Sundays or during the week (Mon.-Thurs. from 10a – 3p) The deadline is **September 15th**.

SUMMER HANDBELL SCHEDULE

- **August 2 and August 9:** 6 PM Summer Handbells rehearse.
- **August 13:** Summer Handbells rehearse at 10:30 AM prior to service.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Pat Smith

Accompanist: Van Potterton

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood