

AUGUST 6, 2023

10TH 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: Wisdom has prepared a feast for us;

All: let us eat and drink of God's good gifts.

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Psalm 146

One: Alleluia! Praise God, O my soul! I will sing praise to you all of my life.

All: Do not put your trust in rulers, in mortals who cannot save. When their spirits depart, they return to the earth, and on that day their plans perish too.

One: Happy are those whose help is in God, who hope in the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth and sea, and of every living thing!

All: The Lord keeps faith forever; God secures justice for the oppressed, food for the hungry, release to the captive, sight to the blind.

One: God raises up those who are bowed down; the Lord cares for the orphaned and comforts the bereaved. You welcome strangers, but the way of the wicked, you corrupt.

All: The Lord will reign forever, throughout all generations. Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 65**

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you are always faithful, never abandoning or giving up on us. Yet, we have failed to love you with our whole hearts. You showed us how to love our fellow human beings, yet we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Turn us back to you, O God, that we may follow you in word and deed, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Beloved, the Lord is loving, merciful, and just. Therefore, we are reconciled to God and to one another, that we might walk in the way of Christ in whom we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

One: God promises mercy and peace to those who love the Lord.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Gift of Love”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 239—NT)

1 John 2:1-10

***HYMN OF INVITATION** (see insert)

“I Shall Not Leave from By Your Side”

SECOND LESSON (p. 241—OT)

Ruth 1

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 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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right...

...sing to the glory of your name:

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.

One: You are holy, O God...
...the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

One: Gracious God,...

...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 # 306**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

***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.

5 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

The basket is out for the 5 Cents a Meal Offering. Please consider giving 5 cents for each meal you have eaten in the last month (or any amount you wish) to help fund local and global programs to feed the hungry.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Hal Hunter

Accompanist: Van Potterton

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood