

**AUGUST 13, 2023**     **11<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.

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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: Taste and see that God is good.

**All: Happy are those who trust in the Lord.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Psalm 126

One: When God brought the exiles home to Zion, they thought they were dreaming.

**All: Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues shouted with joy.**

One: The nations said, "Their God has done great things for them."

**All: Yes, God has done marvelous things for us! Let us rejoice together!**

One: Once again, set our captive hearts free, O Lord.

Make them like flowing streams in the driest desert.

**All: Then those who sow now in tears will reap with shouts of joy;  
those who go out weeping as they carry their seed,  
will come back singing as they carry their harvest home.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 611**

*"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, you are the giver of all good things and the source of our life. But we have failed to live in thanksgiving for the Earth, for our families, for neighbors, and for strangers; for the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the soil that grows our food. Forgive us for our sins against you, your creation, and the community of all your children. Teach us to live in the way of blamelessness and to be happy in your steadfast love, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Friends, hear the good news:

through the power of the Spirit alive in our midst,  
God's mercy turns us toward what is good and just,  
so that we may love God and our neighbors.

In Christ we are forgiven.

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

**SHARING THE PEACE**

One: The Lord will keep in perfect peace  
the minds that are fixed on the goodness of God.  
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST LESSON** (p. 240—NT)

1 John 3:11, 16-23

\***HYMN OF INVITATION** # 643

*“Now Thank We All Our God”*

**SECOND LESSON** (p. 242—OT)

Ruth 2

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.**

**OFFERTORY**

*“Bringing in the Sheaves”*

**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** # 712

*“As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought”*

\***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.

*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.*

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S CIRCLE GROUPS**

**The books are here!** You may pick them up in the church office.

All of the women of the church, and friends of the women in the church, are invited to attend our monthly PW Circle study groups beginning in September. There are three (3) groups from which to choose: two daytime and one in the evening. See your August Courier for more details.

**SUMMER FUN!!**

**Join us for a Church-Wide Picnic and Pool Party on Sat., August 26 beginning at 6:00 PM** at Betsy Moakler’s clubhouse. (103 Sugarmill Dr., J.C.) **BBQ** from The Firehouse will be provided so please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will also be live music!

**TODAY AT COVENANT**

Liturgist: Hal Hunter

Covenant Handbell Choir

**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood