

**AUGUST 20, 2023**    **12<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: In Christ we are no longer strangers;  
All: **we are members of the family of God.**

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Psalm 119

One: Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in your law, O Lord; who meditate upon your word day and night.  
All: **Happiness comes to those who keep your decrees and seek you with all their heart.**  
One: You have commanded that your precepts be kept diligently – if only the people were more faithful in keeping your statutes!  
All: **When I truly learn to be as just and kind as you desire, then I will thank you with an upright heart. I will obey your law and never forget your words.**  
One: With my lips, I shall declare every ordinance the Lord has spoken. I will rejoice in the path you decree as much as I would celebrate a great treasure.  
All: **I will meditate on your law, O Lord, and ponder your precepts. I will delight in your commands and never forget your promises.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 301**

*"Let Us Build a House"*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we confess that we have not always been obedient to your will for us. We have sought justice for ourselves, but neglected it for others. We have insisted on our rights, but have not lived rightly in our relationships. We have desired mercy for our wrongs, but have not offered mercy to those who have wronged us. By your Holy Spirit, forgive us and free us. Help us love as you have loved us, that our lives may testify to your abounding grace and love through Jesus Christ, in whom we pray. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Our God embraces us with kindness, forgives our sins, preserves our lives, and restores our souls through the abundant provision of our Lord Jesus. Receive the good news our faith hungers to hear: we are forgiven and healed in Christ's name.

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

## SHARING THE PEACE

One: Friends, grace to you, forgiveness and peace, through Christ our Savior. 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. 241—NT*)

1 John 4:7-18

\*HYMN OF INVITATION # 440

*“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”*

SECOND LESSON (*p. 243—OT*)

Ruth 3

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

### 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 # 450

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

\*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.

### THIS SATURDAY: SUMMER FUN!!

**Join us for a Church-Wide Picnic and Pool Party on 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!

### BACKPACKS FOR BABMOC!

We continue our 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, same as our Good Sam collection times – see below) **The deadline is September 15<sup>th</sup>.** If you're unable to shop and would like to contribute monetarily instead, feel free to do so and we will be happy to buy supplies on your behalf!

### GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

We continue to collect **Canned Foods with pop-tops** that are ready to eat “as is” for folks without resources to cook. Chef Boyardee canned foods, Vienna Sausages, Beenie Weenie, Soup, Fruit, Vegetable cups, etc. You may drop off your items in the shopping cart in front of the office during the week.

### TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Christian Zembower

Accompanist: Liesl Huhn

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

Admin. Assistant: Artie David