

**AUGUST 27, 2023**    **13<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: Let us hear what God will speak.

**All: The Lord will speak peace to the faithful.**

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Psalm 42

One: As a deer thirsts for streams of cool water, so my soul longs for you, my God.

**All: When can I see God face to face?**

**Where can I bask in God's presence and satisfy my soul's longing?**

One: As I pour out my heart like water, I remember how I used to go with the crowds and lead them into God's house, amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving, dancing with celebration.

**All: Why am I now dispirited? Why is my soul cast down? Hope in the Lord!**

One: Deep calls to deep, as rapids rage. The hills echo the sound of your waterfalls, the thunder of your torrents; your waves wash over me and I am overwhelmed.

**All: Day by day, O Lord, you ordain your love toward me, and in the night you give me your song, a prayer to the God of my life.**

One: Why am I now dispirited? Why is my soul cast down? Hope in the Lord!

**All: I know I will praise God once again.**

**The Lord is my deliverance, my help and my delight.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 37**

*"Let All Things Now Living"*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have often conformed our lives to the ways of the world rather than your Kingdom. We think of ourselves too highly and regard others as lowly. We exalt possessions and power, when you alone are to be worshiped and praised. We let conflicts prevail over grace and divisions over harmony. Have mercy we pray; forgive and transform us, that we may be holy and acceptable to you, discerning and doing your will. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The steadfast love of the Lord never ends. When we call out, God answers.  
God rescues us with an outstretched hand. Friends, this is the good news:  
in Christ we are forgiven and helped to live in grace.

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

## SHARING THE PEACE

One: Pray for peace, live with compassion, and act in love.  
The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 241—NT)

1 John 4:19-5:4

\*HYMN OF INVITATION # 316

*“Where Charity and Love Prevail”*

SECOND LESSON (p. 243—OT)

Ruth 4

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 # 366

*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

\*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.

*There will be a Called Session meeting today at 12:30 in the Library.*

### COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY

The **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER** will be celebrated next Sunday. Take time this week to prepare yourself in prayer and meditation, and don’t forget your 5 Cents a Meal Offering!

### 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. Peanut Butter & Jelly are good foods to bring, too. You may drop off your items in the shopping cart in front of the office during the week.

### TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Gwen Hunter

Accompanist: Jeremi Lukanus

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

Admin. Assistant: Artie David