

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 14TH 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: The day of the Lord is surely coming;

All: **the promise of God will be fulfilled.**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 139

One: Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I rise and when I lie down.

You know my thoughts from far away;

You are intimate with all my ways.

All: **Before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know what it is.**

You hem me in, before and behind, shielding me with your hand.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is a height my mind cannot reach!

One: Where could I run from your Spirit?

Where could I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the highest heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the pit of death, you are there.

All: **I could fly away on the wings of the dawn or make my home on the far side of the sea, but even there your hand would guide me.**

My Maker knows every part of me.

One: For all these mysteries – I thank and praise you, Lord my God –

for the wonder of myself and for the marvels of your works –

my soul knows them well.

All: **How precious are your thoughts to me, Lord!**

How impossible to number them!

could no more count them than the sand.

Search me and know me, O God; test my heart and my thoughts.

Lead me away from wickedness and guide me in the path of life.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 757

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your way of truth and life. You call us to share all that we have and work together for the common good, but we hoard up treasures for ourselves and deny others their daily bread. You call us to set free the captives and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear of our neighbors and hide ourselves from our own kin. You call us to walk in newness of life and be witnesses to the resurrection, but we dwell in the valley of dry bones and keep silent about your saving love. Forgive us, God of grace. Set us free from sin and death and fear, so that we may serve you with gladness and joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Love Will Roll The Clouds Away"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 158—NT)

Romans 8:12-25

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 344

"Bring Peace to Earth Again"

SECOND LESSON (p. 26—NT)

Matthew 24:3-8

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*

Jesus Christ is God with us, the eternal Son of the Father, who became man and lived among us to fulfill the ministry of reconciliation between God and creation, and he is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete this mission. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which people are reconciled to God and to one another. God enables us to receive forgiveness as we forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as we make peace among ourselves.

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: Blessed are you, O Lord...

...the heavenly choir

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: Blessed is Jesus Christ...

...the mystery of faith:

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

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit...

...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 # 357

"The Days Are Surely Coming"

*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.