

OCTOBER 1, 2023 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



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

423-282-5324 ♦ office@cpcjc.org ♦ www.cpcjc.org

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: From north and south and east and west,

All: all Creation sings forth your praises!

PRELUDE # 388

"Uyai mose" (Come, All You People)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 133

One: See how good it is for God's people to live together as one!

All: How good and sweet it is when kindred dwell in unity!

One: It is like precious oil on Aaron's head,
running down his beard and the collar of his robes.

All: It is like fresh dew on Mount Hermon, watering the hills of Zion.

One: That is where God bestows the blessing – life that never ends.

**All: Come let us worship and bow down together;
let us kneel before God, our Creator.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 186

"Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Lord, you created the whole world and called it good, but we look out at your world and see division and suffering. You call us to maintain the unity of spirit in the bond of peace, but we choose division over diversity, confrontation over civility, conflict over peace born from justice. You call us to love the least of these among us, but we hear the cries of the oppressed and choose our own comfort. We allow senseless suffering rather than sacrifice for our neighbors. Forgive us. Grant us fresh vision to see one another as siblings in Christ. Rekindle in us your gifts — the spirit of power, love and self-discipline — that with faith in Christ, we might be made new and be part of bringing forth your peaceable kingdom. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: We call to mind God's promises and there we find hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies are new every morning.
Believe the good news; In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Bread of Love, Cup of Grace”

Carol McClure

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 501—OT)

Psalm 23

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 767

“Together We Serve”

SECOND LESSON (p. 30—NT)

Matthew 26:26-29

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 Belhar Confession*

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family. And we believe that that this unity of the people of God must be manifest and active, in that we love one another; that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another, that we share one baptism together, that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together, that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope, which is the height and the breadth and the depth and the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

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: We give you thanks and praise,...

...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: We give you thanks...

...the mystery of faith:

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

One: Through the gift of faith...

...through Christ who is our peace. **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 # 506

“Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table!”

*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: Anne Smith

Accompanist: Jeremi Lukanus

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

Admin. Assistant: Artie Davi