

# SEPTEMBER 17, 2023--16<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: Surely God is our salvation;

**All: Trust in the Lord and do not be afraid.**

#### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 123

One: I lift up my eyes to you, who sits enthroned in the heavens!

As the eyes of the servants look to the hand of those they serve, so we look to you.

**All: Have mercy on us, O Lord!**

One: You, who have been our dwelling place from generation to generation,

**All: Hear us when we pray!**

One: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God. Be with us now and always.

**All: We will magnify your holy name.**

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE # 351

*"All Who Love and Serve Your City"*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of abundance, you have given us so many gifts. You bless us with talents, resources, skills, and knowledge, and yet we hide them under a bushel. We hoard these gifts, instead of following you and sharing with those in need. We have been poor stewards of all you have given. Forgive us, and help us to grow what we've been given, that it might be returned in service to you. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Children, because we belong to Christ, we need not fear – he lived for us, died for us, was raised for us, and is praying for us even now.

Believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

#### SHARING THE PEACE

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*“With Grateful Heart”*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST LESSON (p. 854—OT)

Amos 5:18-24

#### \*HYMN OF INVITATION # 526

*“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”*

#### SECOND LESSON (p. 28—NT)

Matthew 25:14-30

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.**

### 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 # 716

*“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”*

### \*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.

**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.

## SUNDAY EVENING ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Join us this evening at 6 PM on Zoom as we continue our new Bible Study on Sunday Evenings. This will be a time to prayerfully dig deeper into the morning's texts as we discuss what we're hearing the Spirit say to us and to our congregation.

## “HAPPY TOGETHER” NIGHT OUT

The Congregational Life Committee (CLC) will be holding a monthly “Happy Together” night out at a local restaurant in Johnson City. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a meal together and get to know others in our congregation a bit better. If you want to attend but need transportation, please contact Tina in the church office. She will alert the CLC and we will make that happen. Everyone pays for themselves, and no RSVP is needed— just show up! **The first night out will be on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at Holy Taco Cantina North** located by Food City at 920 North State of Franklin Road in Johnson City. Be there or be square!

## TRIPRIDE FESTIVAL—SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

The annual TriPride Festival is in Founders Park on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Covenant will have a table with our friends from First Elizabethton. We are looking for volunteers to help us greet our neighbors. If you're available to help, **please** let the church office know!

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS – SUNDAY, OCT. 1 AT 4 PM

Covenant and Watauga Avenue Presbyterian Churches will host this year’s Blessing of the Animals in Covenant’s backyard. There will be a brief service by Revs. Maggie Rust and Brandon Davis, followed by treats and lemonade, a photo booth, and special goody bags. For safety purposes, please make sure your pet is on a leash or in a carrier. If needed, bring a photo of your pet to bless.

## 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: Kathi Cary

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