

# OCTOBER 8, 2023--19<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: What does the Holy One require of us?

**All: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.**

#### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 78

One: O people, hear my teaching: listen to the words of my mouth!  
I will open my lips to tell you our stories.

**All: We will learn by parables the wisdom of old –  
things we have heard and known, which our ancestors shared with us.**

One: We will not hide anything from our children; we will tell the next generation.

**All: We will tell of your praiseworthy deeds, O God, the wonders you performed.**

One: How you established the Law in Israel,  
the commandments you gave to our ancestors.

**All: We will share them with our children.  
We will teach the next generation,  
so that they know them and will also teach their children.**

One: Then they will put their trust in you and forget not your works;  
they shall keep your commandments,  
unlike their ancestors and the stubborn generations of old.

**All: Let us worship the God who keeps covenant with us,  
who is merciful and forgives us our fickle hearts.  
Let us remember God's story and keep Christ's commandment of love.**

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE # 21

*"Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works"*

#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CALL TO CONFESSION

#### CONFESSION AND PARDON *from Voices: Native American Hymns and Worship Resources*

One: The circle of love is repeatedly broken because of the sin of exclusion.  
We create separate circles: the inner circle and the outer circle,  
the circle of power and the circle of misery,  
the circle of favor and the circle of denial.

**All: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.**

One: The circle of love is broken whenever there is hostility, whenever there is misunderstanding, whenever there is insensitivity and a closed heart.

**All: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.**

One: The circle of love is broken whenever we cannot see eye to eye, whenever we cannot link hand to hand, whenever we cannot live heart to heart and affirm our differences.

**All: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who have sinned against us.**

*(Let us pause for silent prayer and reflection.)*

One: Through God's grace we are forgiven, by the mercy of our Creator, through the love of Christ, and in the power of the Spirit. Let us rejoice and be glad!

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, an unbroken circle. Amen.**

#### SHARING THE PEACE

One: The God of love is a God of grace, who accepts us and enfolds us in peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

#### HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "All Things are Connected" by Mary Lynn Lightfoot

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST LESSON** (p. 784—OT) Ezekiel 17:22-24

**\*HYMN OF INVITATION** # 455 "Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken"

**SECOND LESSON** (p. 181—NT) 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

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

*[Refrain]* We are all related. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*A Native American translation of the Lord's Prayer (Nez Perce)*

**O Great Spirit, You are our Shepherd Chief in the most high place. Your home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon; we honor your name as sacred and holy. Bring your Good Road to us, where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above is reflected on the earth below. Whatever you want done, let it be done everywhere. Provide for us day by day – the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon, the corn, squash, and wild rice – all that we need, your gifts of life. Release us from the things we have done wrong, in the same way we release those who have done wrong to us. Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your Good Road, and free us from all evil. For everything belongs to you. Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen.**

#### GOING OUT TO SERVE

**\*HYMN OF BLESSING** # 300

*"We Are One in the Spirit"*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

#### POSTLUDE

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*Voices: Native American Hymns and Worship Resources, 1992, Marilyn Hofstra, Discipleship Resources, Nashville, TN.*

**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.

#### TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Gary 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 David