

OCTOBER 15, 2023--20TH 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.

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

423-282-5324 ♦ office@cpjc.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: God's grace is sufficient for us;

All: **Jesus Christ is our Lord, who saves us from the ways of death.**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 145

One: I will extol you my God and bless your name forever and ever!

Every day, I will bless you, until the end of the age.

For you are great, and greatly to be praised!

All: **Let us exalt God's greatness and declare the awesome deeds of the Lord!**

God is good to all, compassionate to all creation, full of grace and love.

One: God, you are faithful in all your words, and merciful in all your works.

We have witnessed the wonder of your reign, the glory of your dominion.

All: **The eyes of all look to you in hope, O God.**

You grant them food in due season.

You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

One: You are just in all your ways. You lift up those who are falling and raise up

the oppressed. You are near to all who call on you, all who call on you in truth.

All: **You fulfill the desires of those who revere you;**

you watch over all who love you, O Lord, and save them.

Let all creation bless your name forever and ever.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 509

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess to you and to each other that we are tired and weighed down – from the mistakes we have made, from the judgments we cast on others, from our unceasing responsibilities and our blind striving. God of grace, reveal yourself to us in moments of silence and stillness; show us your promised rest. Ready your children for the work of your love, that we may honor you in what we do and say. This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, hear the good news of our faith: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, showing compassion to all. In Christ, we are forgiven and freed to share our joy with one another.

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

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The light of God has dawned on us! It shines on those who once set in darkness, to guide our feet in the path of peace. The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Lone, Wild Bird”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 12—NT)

Matthew 11:25-30

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 824

“There Is a Place of Quiet Rest”

SECOND LESSON (p. 62—OT)

Exodus 16:2-3, 11-31

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Beth Jarvis

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ’s reign as Lord and Savior, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and live holy and joyful lives.

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 # 182

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

*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.

Pastor Maggie is on vacation and will be back in the pulpit next week. In the meantime, please contact the church office with any pastoral concerns.

This morning we welcome back to Covenant the Rev. Beth Jarvis. Beth is the director of the Ministry Resource Center at Milligan University, where she helps ministers connect with each other to thrive in ministry. She is an ordained minister and holds an MDiv from Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan. She and her husband, Daniel Silliman, live in Johnson City, TN.

“HAPPY TOGETHER” NIGHT OUT

The Congregational Life Committee (CLC) invites everyone to come and enjoy a meal together and get to know others in our congregation a bit better. **This month’s night out will be on Tuesday, October 17th at 5:30 pm at The Firehouse Restaurant** located at 627 W. Walnut St. in Johnson City. If you want to attend but need transportation, please contact Tina in the church office. Everyone pays for themselves, and no RSVP is needed—just show up!

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