

OCTOBER 22, 2023--21ST 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@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

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

Christian Zembower

GREETING

One: God has done great things for us;

All: Therefore we rejoice in the Lord!

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 24

One: The earth and everything on it – the world and all who live in it – belong to God.
The Lord laid the foundations of creation.

**All: Who has the right to ascend God's mountain?
Who is allowed to enter the Lord's holy place?**

One: Those whose hands are clean and whose hearts are pure,
who do not worship idols or make false promises.

**All: The Lord will bless them.
They are the people who seek God, who desire truth.**

One: Open now the gates and come in to worship the Lord who liberates us!

**All: God sets us free for service,
to help others joyfully and dwell in God's love and goodness.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 663

"Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, what a debt we owe to you. You have given us all things in Christ, yet we withhold from you the honor and glory that are yours. Instead, we pay tribute to empire, profit off the vulnerable, and act with selfish ambitions. Forgive us, God of grace. Restore us in the image of yourself, that we might imitate the humble service of Jesus, in whom we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, God offers forgiveness of our sin and abundant life to all who repent.
Turn then, and live in Christ, in whom we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

One: May God grant you grace, glory, and peace forever.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC "Give of Your Best to the Master" Covenant Handbell Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 192—NT) Ephesians 1:3-14

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 720 "Jesus Calls Us"

SECOND LESSON (p. 301—OT) 2 Samuel 24:18-25

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 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 # 697

"Take My Life"

*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.

The congregation expresses its deepest sympathy to Jackie Bader in the death of her husband, Steve, on October 12, 2023.

CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH!

October is Clergy Appreciation Month and next Sunday marks Maggie's second anniversary as Covenant's pastor. As you have occasion, please let Maggie know we're grateful for her ministry with us.

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, Vienna Sausages, Beenie Weenie, soup, fruit, vegetable cups, peanut butter, jelly, and canned milk. You may bring them to church on Sunday or drop off your items in the shopping cart in front of the office during the week.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Christian Zembower

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