

OCTOBER 29, 2023 REFORMATION 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

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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: The Lord is our eternal dwelling place;

All: From age to age, the Lord is God.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 1

One: Happy are those who reject the path of violence, who do not take the advice of the wicked or associate with those who endlessly criticize and belittle.

All: Their delight is in the law of the Lord, the wisdom of the Most High God. They meditate upon it day and night.

One: They are like trees planted by streams of flowing water; they bear fruit in season.

All: Their leaves do not wither or fade. Everything they do will prosper.

One: Not so with wrongdoers! They are like chaff the wind blows away. They have no taproot to anchor them when judgment comes.

All: God watches over those who do justice.

Come let us worship the God who blesses us with deliverance.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 275

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess we have neither loved our neighbors nor honored ourselves as your beloved creation. We have judged unjustly, regarded others ungenerously, profited off others' loss, borne grudges, and kept silence in the face of wrongdoing. We long to live in accord with your desire, that your way of compassion, kindness, and honesty would govern our hearts and minds. Forgive us Lord. Turn our lives toward peace and lead us into life. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, the crucified and risen Christ is our redeemer; in him we are forgiven and set free to love our neighbors and ourselves as the beloved children of God we are.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

One: Delight in the Lord, in God’s love and light;
proclaim Christ’s peace by day and night.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Love is All Our Joy”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (*p. 106—OT*)

Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18

***HYMN OF INVITATION** # 694

“Great God of Every Blessing”

SECOND LESSON (*p. 25—NT*)

Matthew 22:34-40

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 Scots Confession*

As we believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, so we believe that from the beginning there has been, now is, and to the end of the world shall be, one Kirk, that is to say, one company and multitude of those chosen by God, who rightly worship and embrace true faith in Christ Jesus, who is the only Head of the Kirk, even as it is the body of Christ. This Kirk is catholic, that is universal, because it contains the chosen of all ages, of all realms, nations, and tongues, who have communion with God the Father and the Son, through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.

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** # 361

“O Christ, the Great Foundation”

***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.

Please join us in the library after this service for refreshments as we celebrate Maggie’s second year as Pastor at Covenant, as well as the conclusion of Clergy Appreciation month!

COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. All are welcome at the table, and we invite you to be in prayer this week about how you will receive the sacrament. We will also be taking up the 5 Cents a Meal Offering.

BINGO POTLUCK!! NOVEMBER 4, 2023

The Congregational Life Committee will be hosting a **Bingo Potluck** for the PC(USA) churches in our community on **Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 at 5:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite dish to share and be prepared for a fun night of BINGO with fellow Presbyterians. Stacy Larsen will be calling the BINGO games and we will have fun prizes and lots of laughter. Mark your calendars to attend and contact Stacy through email at stacyllarsen@gmail.com with any questions.

Daylight Saving Time ends on November 5. Remember to turn your clock back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 4th!

TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Ron 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