

NOVEMBER 5, 2023

ALL SAINTS' 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.

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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

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

Ron Smith

GREETING

One: Blessed are the poor in spirit

All: for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 34

One: I will bless the Lord always; praise will continually be on my lips!
My soul will boast in the Lord; let the oppressed hear it and be glad!

All: Glorify the Lord with me! Let us exalt God's holy name together!

One: I sought the Lord, who answered me and freed me from my fear.

Those who look to God are radiant, their faces are never shrouded with shame.

**All: Let all the people revere the Lord,
for those who stand in awe of God lack nothing.**

One: Happy are those who take refuge in God. When the poor called out, God heard and answered them. They were saved from their troubles, rescued from distress.

All: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord God, the giver of life!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 731**

"Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you call us your own children and cover us with your love. We would seek to be merciful as you are, and to show compassion as you do, but we fail to live the life to which we have been called. Where we ought to forgive, we condemn; the evil we should shun, we embrace. Forgive our sinful ways, tame our wayward wills, and make us more like Christ, until we are raised in perfection on the last day. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, no one who takes refuge in God will be condemned.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

One: Be strong in the grace that is yours through union with Christ and all the saints.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Lux Aeterna”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 4—NT)

Matthew 5:1-12

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 727

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

SECOND LESSON (p. 249—NT)

Revelation 7:9-17

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

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

LITANY FOR ALL SAINTS’ DAY 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.

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy...

...forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: You are holy, O God of majesty...

...the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit...

...almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF BLESSING # 326

“For All the Saints”

*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.

5 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

The basket is out for the 5 Cents a Meal Offering. Please consider giving 5 cents for each meal you have eaten in the last month (or any amount you wish) to help fund local and global programs to feed the hungry.

FIRST SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Please join us in the sanctuary this evening at 7:15 PM for our monthly First Sunday Evening Worship service. These services offer opportunities to experience different styles of worship and prayer practices together. We hope you will join us!

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