

# NOVEMBER 12, 2023 24<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: Choose this day whom you will serve.

All: **We will serve and obey the Lord our God.**

#### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 89

One: Forever I will sing the wonders of your love,  
O Lord, proclaiming your faithfulness to all generations!

All: **I'll tell them that your love stands firm forever,  
your fidelity is fixed in the heavens.**

One: Happy are those who have learned to praise you, O God,  
who walk in the light of your presence!

All: **We will rejoice in your holy name all day long, uplifted by your justice!**

One: You are the strength in which the righteous glory;  
through your generous favor, we are richly blessed.

All: **The Lord is our shield and vindication,  
the holy God of Israel rules over every nation.**

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE # 733

*"We All Are One in Mission"*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, you call us to faithful living, giving ourselves to you and to one another after the example of Jesus. Yet sin prevents us from following your way. We pursue our own goals, turn from your path of sacrificial love, and place our hope in things that cannot last. Forgive us Lord. Lift the burden of our regrets through the power of your patient mercy, and once again give us ears to hear your call and faith to follow where Christ leads; in him we pray. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, stand firm in the gospel. Rest in the goodness and mercy of our God.  
Be glad and rejoice in what God's love is creating: newness of life.  
In Christ we are forgiven and reconciled to God and each other.

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

## SHARING THE PEACE

One: May God grant you strength for every good work, give courage to your hearts and peace to your minds. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON (p. 164—NT)

Romans 16:1-16

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

Rev. Maggie Rust

### MISSION PRESENTATIONS

Second Harvest Food Bank

The River

Rise Up! For Kids

Holston Presbytery Camp

BABMOC

For the Future of Guangaje Ecuador

UKirk ETSU

*Don Coble*

*Stacy Larsen*

*Eric Patton*

*Madeline Horne*

*Matt Cary*

*Julie Wood*

*Ethan Sherrer*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### 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 # 761

*“Called as Partners in Christ's Service”*

\*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.

**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 Fellowship Hall after worship for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck and the Alternative Gift Fair!**

**Session** is meeting this afternoon. Please be in prayer for our church leaders.

## ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

### SERVE GOD – GIVE MORE – CONSUME LESS

This morning, 7 mission organizations are participating with us in worship and will attend our fair in the Fellowship Hall right after worship. Brochures and Giving Forms are in your bulletins. If you have a friend or family member who really doesn't need the latest gadget this holiday, why not consider giving to one of these groups that need your help with their chosen mission? Greeting cards will be available for you to fill out and mail to your friend/family so that they will know what has been given in their names. We're sure they will appreciate your thoughtfulness. **The opportunity to give to these ministries will continue through the Advent season**, so you have ample time to participate.

## 2023 ANGEL TREE AT COVENANT

This year's Angel Tree program will again support local homeless or at-risk children who attend Johnson City Schools. Each child is in need of either clothing or toys (or both). If you would like to participate, you will find the Angel Tree set up on a table in the Narthex. There are 5 children—for each one there is a tag for an item (shirt, pants, shoes, etc.) Please choose and remove a child's tag (or 2) off the tree and take it with you. You will need to wrap the gift and attach a tag with the child's name to the outside of the present. **All gifts must be returned to the church office no later than Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for supporting this very important local mission and spreading Christmas blessings to these children!

## THE MITTEN TREE

Every year we collect items for children in our area who need a little warmth during the winter. The Mitten Tree is in its traditional spot—in the hallway across from the office. **Please bring hats, scarves, mittens, and hoodies to hang on the tree.** They will be distributed to the youth at Rise Up! for Kids. **NOTE:** hoodie sizes will be for middle- and high-schoolers.

## 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