

NOVEMBER 19, 2023 25TH 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: Come sing unto the Lord!

All: **Make a joyful noise to God!**

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from John Wesley's Select Hymns, 1761

All: **Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not any slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find in it a blessing.**

One: Sing lustily and with good courage.

Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep;
but lift up your voice with strength!

Be not afraid of your voice nor ashamed of its being heard.

One: Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

One: Sing in Time. Whatever time is sung, do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend closely to the leading voices and move therewith.

Take care you sing not too slow.

The drawling way naturally steals upon those who are lazy;

it is high time to drive it out from among us,

and sing all our tunes just as quick and joyful as we did at first.

All: **Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing God more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your Heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 305**

"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE AND SINGING

Hymn # 15
Hymn # 14
Hymn # 39

Psalm 95:1-7
“All Creatures of our God and King”
“For the Beauty of the Earth”
“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Hymn # 821
Hymn # 375
Hymn # 438
Hymn # 839

Psalm 149
“How Can I Keep from Singing”
“Shall We Gather at the River”
“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”
“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!”

Hymn # 69
Hymn # 465
Hymn # 32

Psalm 92:1-5
“Here I Am, Lord”
“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to render to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you, not with our lips only, but with our whole lives, turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joys of all our days into a living sacrifice to you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 # 611

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

*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.

DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE PARK

Covenant is once again sponsoring a tree in Founders Park for A Candyland Christmas. We will be decorating on **Tuesday, November 21 at 10:30 AM** with a rain date of Friday, Nov. 24 and/or Saturday, Nov. 25. All are welcome to come and help or just watch and give advice if you like. Once we know the location of our tree, we will let you know. **The official tree lighting ceremony will take place on Saturday, November 25 at 6:30 PM.** We hope to see you there!

The Communications and Outreach Committee

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 5th.** Thank you for supporting this very important local mission and spreading Christmas blessings to these children!

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

SERVE GOD – GIVE MORE – CONSUME LESS

Last week, 7 mission organizations participated with us in worship and attended our fair in the Fellowship Hall. 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? Brochures and Giving Forms are in your bulletins. Greeting cards are 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.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Anne 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