

NOVEMBER 26, 2023 CHRIST THE KING 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

GREETING

One: Make a joyful noise to God!

All: Worship the Lord with gladness!

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 93

One: The Lord reigns, robed in splendor and armed with strength.

**All: The world stands firm and cannot be moved;
God's throne is established of old.**

One: You Lord are from everlasting.

The seas raise their voice to you; the floods shout in pounding waves of praise.

**All: Stronger than the thunder of great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord God!**

One: Your reign was made known from of old; your decrees are sure.

All: Holiness befits the house of the Lord. Let us praise God forevermore!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 363

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King!"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him; we are slow to acknowledge his reign. We give allegiance to the powers of this world and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim Christ as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors of your Kingdom, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus, in whom we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God has rescued us from the power of evil and claimed us for the realm of Christ, in whom we have redemption. Friends, hear the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

One: May the Spirit, who calls us to eternal glory in Christ, empower us to do God's will. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Adoration”

Covenant Handbell Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 34—NT)

Matthew 28:16-20

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 377

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

SECOND LESSON (p. 192—NT)

Ephesians 1:15-23

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 Confession of 1967*

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day, culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents God’s triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God’s creation. Already God’s reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of our faith, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not despair in the face of disappointments and defeat, but in steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God’s victory.

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 # 268

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

*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 library after this service for refreshments!

POINSETTIA DEADLINE IS TODAY

If you would like to place a poinsettia (\$10/ea.) in the sanctuary for the Christmas season, please use the form in your bulletin and place it, along with your payment, in the offering plate.

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.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Join us next week after worship to decorate the church for Advent!

TWO SISTERS’ JEWELRY SALE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Join us in the Fellowship Hall next Sunday, Dec. 3rd from 2p – 5p for Cynthia Erdei’s bi-annual Jewelry Sale with her sister. This year, for the first time, they will be featuring 18th century African Trade beads! Great fun! Great treats! Great opportunity to buy gifts. Proceeds will be used to support The River Ministry.

CHRISTMAS RECITAL

Join us in the Sanctuary on Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 PM for a Christmas Recital featuring Katelyn Gabler and Jeremi Lukanus. We will take up a Love Offering – suggested donation \$5.

CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION—DECEMBER 10

There will be a **Called Meeting of the Congregation** on **Sunday, December 10 right after worship**. We will elect officers (elders) for the Class of 2026. The nominees being presented by the Nominating Committee are: Matt Cary, Betsy Hagelberg, and Christian Zembower.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Gary 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