

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



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

423-282-5324 ♦ office@cpcjc.org ♦ www.cpcjc.org

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: In Christ the promises of God are fulfilled;

All: In Christ we are sealed by the Spirit.

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 41

One: Happy are those who consider the poor;
the Lord will defend them in times of trouble.

**All: The Lord protects and preserves those who speak truth,
whose lives show loving kindness.**

One: God will sustain them on their sickbed and restore them to health;
the Lord will heal all their illness and infirmities.

**All: When I prayed to the Lord, "Be gracious to me; show me your great mercy,"
God heard my cry and answered me.**

One: The Lord has raised me up. I have sought favor in God's sight,
and my enemies have not triumphed.

All: Blessed be the Lord! May we dwell in God's presence forevermore.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 772**

"Live into Hope"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, you bring healing to our lives and comfort to our hearts. Forgive us, Lord, when we contribute to the things that break your heart. You would have us share our gifts with the world, but we keep our resources close and our minds closed. You would have us live in faithful community, but we isolate ourselves and eye our neighbors with mistrust. You would have us see all people as our siblings, but we try to separate ourselves from anyone who challenges our comfort. Forgive us, O God, by your grace, and free us to become agents of your healing and reconciliation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God has been gracious to us and has raised us up.
The Spirit upholds us and keeps us forever in God's holy presence.
Friends, in Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The Lord of love will lift up all who are low, the power of his presence brings healing and peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

“A Humble Prayer”

by Jason Krug

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 672—OT)

Isaiah 43:18-25

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 436

“God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us”

SECOND LESSON (p. 36—NT)

Mark 2:1-12

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Maggie Rust

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

INSTALLATION OF ELDERS – Class of 2026

Statement on Ordination

*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.

Constitutional Questions

Prayer of Ordination & Installation

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.**

All: 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.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF BLESSING # 494

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

*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.