

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



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

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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.)*

WELCOME

EARTH CARE MOMENT

Ann Freeman & Ron Smith

GREETING

One: The Word of the Lord is near to us.

All: Call on the Lord and you will be saved.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 25

One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
My God, I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame.

All: None who hope in you will be ashamed, but guilt comes to the treacherous.

One: Show me your ways, O Lord! Teach me your paths!

All: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; good and upright are all your ways.

One: I long for you, my God, mindful of your mercy,
your steadfast love from ancient days.

**All: Pardon the sins of my youth and my rebellion;
remember me in love, according to your goodness, O God.**

One: The Lord leads the humble in what is right and teaches them the way of peace.

All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 166

"Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess to you the ways we have sinned and fallen to temptation. We have hungered after what will not satisfy; we have compromised with corrupt power; we have doubted in your promises to protect us. Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weaknesses. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your holy will. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: By grace you have been saved through faith;
this is not your own doing but is a free gift of God.
Friends, by grace we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

One: Since we have been reconciled to God through Christ,
let us also live in peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (*p. 34—NT*)

Mark 1:9-15

***HYMN OF INVITATION # 298**

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

SECOND LESSON (*p. 129—NT*)

Acts 10:34-48

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 Constitution of the PC(USA)*

The great ends of the Church are:

- the proclamation of the gospel for salvation;**
- the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;**
- the maintenance of divine worship;**
- the promotion of social righteousness;**
- the preservation of the truth; and**
- the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.**

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 # 462**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

***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.

LECTIO DIVINA – WEDNESDAYS AT 6:00 PM

Starting February 21, David & Julie Wood will be leading a *Lectio Divina* group at the church on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. Latin for 'holy reading,' this contemplative prayer practice is a rich way to engage in the scripture and hear what the Holy Spirit might be saying. We hope you'll join us!

NAME TAGS

Are you fairly new to Covenant? If you are and you don't have a name tag, please let Tina know! Wearing a name tag makes it easier to get to know one another.

GIVING TO THE CHURCH

Besides online giving or dropping off or mailing a check, it is also easy (and free) to set up **automatic payments** through your banking institution or online BillPay. Thank you for continuing to support the work of Covenant Presbyterian Church.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Christian Zembower

Accompanist: Jeremi Lukanus

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood