

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

SECOND 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

423-282-5324 ♦ office@cpjc.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.)*

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR MISSION: One Great Hour of Sharing

Phyllis Thompson

GREETING

One: Our faith depends upon the grace of God.

All: Let us praise the Lord who gives life to the dead.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 22

One: You who worship the Lord, give praise!

Let the sons and daughters of Israel fall down in worship!

All: For God does not overlook the suffering of those in pain; God will answer when they cry for help.

One: Those who are poor will eat and be satisfied,
those who seek the Lord will live long in the land.

**All: The whole earth, from one end to another,
will sing praise to the Lord!**

One: Those who had feasted and devoured the poor –
they will now kneel and bow down before the Lord who rules over all the earth.

**All: Let the people proclaim God's justice from age to age:
"See what God has done!"**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 401

"Here in This Place"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you long to gather us in the wide embrace of your love, but we confess that we have been wayward children. We have disobeyed your commands; our ears have been deaf to your call; our hearts have been cold to your love. In thought, word, and deed, we have hurt others and dishonored your holy name. Forgive us by your grace and once again receive us as beloved children, not because we are worthy but for the sake of Christ Jesus who loved us and gave himself for us, in whom we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The promise of our faith is that if we entrust ourselves to the One who judges justly, we need not feel threatened, for we will be returned to righteousness. Friends, having been brought into the safety of God's fold, we are forgiven and at peace.

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

SHARING THE PEACE

One: There is nothing that can separate you from the love and peace of God. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Be Thou My Vision"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 616—OT)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 316

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

SECOND LESSON (p. 120—NT)

Acts 2:42-47

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 # 308

"O God in Whom All Life Begins"

*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.

Pastor Maggie will be out of the office from February 26 through March 5. Please contact Tina in the church office with any pastoral concerns. 423-282-5324 or office@cpcjc.org.

SONGS OF HOPE – SUNDAY, MARCH 10

We are thrilled to be hosting the **Maryville College Choir** as part of their *Songs of Hope* tour on Sunday, March 10. We will have a **Soup Supper at 5pm** (instead of our regular 2nd Sunday Potluck) with the students and the **concert will follow at 6:30p**. Bring your favorite pot of soup to share with the choir and the congregation and join us for a great time of fellowship with 50 college students and a fabulous musical performance!

APPALACHIAN EQUALITY CHORUS – SATURDAY, MARCH 23 AT 7P

Join us at Covenant for the WORLD PREMIER concert of "Every **BODY**." The multi-movement work was created by a coalition of composers and lyricists to celebrate all of our bodies – in all shapes and sizes! The concert is free, but donations will gladly be accepted.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Cynthia Erdei

Accompanist: Jeremi Lukanus

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood