

MARCH 10, 2024

FOURTH 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@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.)*

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR MISSION: One Great Hour of Sharing

GREETING

One: Press on faithfully toward the goal;

All: The heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 107

One: "Give thanks for the goodness of the Lord; God's love endures forever!"

Let this be the witness of the Lord's redeemed,
those set free from the clutches of oppression.

**All: When they called to the Lord in their trouble,
God rescued them from their suffering, sending out a word to heal them.**

One: Let them thank the Lord for this great love, for the marvels done for all the people.

**All: Let us worship God, offering sacrifices of thanksgiving
and recounting what the Lord has done in joyful song!**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 300

"We Are One in the Spirit"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent your Son Jesus to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves as pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sins. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior in whom we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear also this promise from the prophet:

The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places;
you shall be like a watered garden like a spring of water that never runs dry.
Friends, in Christ we are forgiven and restored to life.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

One: Walk as children of the light, in all goodness and righteousness.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Covenant Handbell Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 229—NT)

James 1:22-27

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 320

“The Church of Christ in Every Age”

SECOND LESSON (p. 866—OT)

Micah 6:8

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 # 70

“What Does the Lord Require of You?”

*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.

Session is meeting this afternoon. Please be in prayer for our church leaders.

SONGS OF HOPE – TODAY

Please join us this evening as we host the **Maryville College Choir** as part of their *Songs of Hope* tour. We will have a **Potluck Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall at 5pm** (instead of our regular 2nd Sunday Potluck) with the students, and the **concert will follow in the Sanctuary 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!

TN TREE DAYS – FRIDAY, MARCH 15 & 16, 2024

We still need 2-3 volunteers to help distribute the trees on Friday, March 15 (from 3-5:30) and 1 or 2 for Saturday, March 16 (9-noon). Please contact Ron Smith (ronDsmith1349@outlook.com) if you can help.

TECH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

In an exciting update, we are thrilled to announce that speakers for the new sound system are being installed this week!! We are so looking forward to the improvement this will be to our worship, particularly for those who join us online. This also means that we are in need of VOLUNTEERS! We will need at least 6 people to train on the new sound system and learn the basics of our video setup. Just like our liturgists, we hope to create a schedule where this work is shared among the congregation as an act of mutual ministry. Are you interested in serving our church in this important way? Please contact the church office or talk to Pastor Maggie!

COURIER DEADLINE

The deadline for the April Courier is **Monday, March 18**. Please send announcements for the newsletter and meeting/event dates for the calendar to Tina at office@cpcjc.org.

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: Anne Trask

Accompanist: Van Potterton

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood