

MARCH 17, 2024

FIFTH 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

GREETING

One: Live as children of the light.

All: Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine in you.

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 119

One: How can people walk in the path of righteousness?

All: By living according to God's word.

One: With my whole heart, I seek the Lord.

All: Let me not stray from God's commands.

One: I treasure your promises more than riches.

All: Teach me your way, O God. Let the name of the Lord be blessed!

One: My mouth shall repeat what God has declared to the people.

All: I shall delight in God's decrees and never forget the word of the Lord.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 311**

"Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being;

All: teach us wisdom in our secret heart.

One: Send out your light, send out your truth;

All: and let them lead us to our home.

One: Take from us the weight of our sin,

All: that room might be made for the spirit of truth.

One: If we prepare a dwelling place, that spirit will abide within us,

All: and the truth will set our spirits free.

One: Then shall we love not only in word or in speech;

**All: then shall we love in deed and in truth,
following Christ in whom we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Jesus said: I am the way, the truth, and the life; if you know me, you will know my Father in heaven also. I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. Friends, believe the good news: in Christ we are forgiven.

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

SHARING THE PEACE

One: Set your troubled hearts at rest, believe in him who has conquered death. Trust in God who gives eternal life and the peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Keep on the Sunny Side”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 194—NT)

Ephesians 4:17-5:2

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 463

“How Firm a Foundation”

SECOND LESSON (p. 113—NT)

John 18:33-40

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 # 829

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

*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.

TECH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As you can see, speakers for the new sound system were 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 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: Cynthia Erdei

Accompanist: Van Potterton

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood