

**MARCH 24, 2024**

**PALM SUNDAY**



# 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.

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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

## GREETING

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: **Hosanna in the highest!**

## PRELUDE

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 118

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;  
the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever!

All: **Let all the nations declare: "God's love is everlasting!"**

One: Open wide the gates of justice, O God, and let us walk through.

All: **This is the gate of the Lord; only the righteous and merciful shall enter.**

One: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

All: **This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

One: This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it!

All: **Hosanna! We beseech you, O God;  
come quickly with your saving grace and love.**

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: **The Lord is our God, who has brought us life and light.**

**We shall give thanks and extol our God with praise;  
for the Lord is good, and God's love endures forevermore!**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE # 197

*"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Triumphant God, we join the crowds of the ages in shouting your praises. While our lips give you glory, our lives do not always reflect your purposes. We sing easily of your greatness, but we struggle to live faithfully. We hear of your salvation, yet sin is still close and real. Have mercy on us, O God. Ride into our hearts with healing grace. Forgive what we have done and direct who we shall be. Lord, save us; we cry: Hosanna!**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Friends: the one who rode into Jerusalem, struggled on the cross, and was sealed in the tomb, is risen from the dead!  
Jesus Christ has defeated sin forever.  
This is the good news: in Christ, we are forgiven!

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

**SHARING THE PEACE**

One: Look! The King of Glory, the Prince of Peace comes to you, humble and riding on a donkey. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“A Joyful Sanctus”*

by Cristi Miller

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST LESSON** (p. 233—NT)

1 Peter 2:4-10

**\*HYMN OF INVITATION # 372**

*“O for a World”*

**SECOND LESSON** (p. 106—NT)

John 12:12-16

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 # 216**

*“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

**\*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.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING—MARCH 31, 2024**

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please plan to make a contribution to our One Great Hour of Sharing as part of your Easter celebration.

**HOLY WEEK AT COVENANT**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY: March 28, 6:00 PM**

Please join us for a Maundy Thursday service with Communion.

**GOOD FRIDAY: MARCH 29, 6:00 PM**

There will be a Good Friday Service at Watauga Ave. Pres. Church. (610 E. Watauga Ave., J.C.) We encourage everyone to attend.

**EASTER SUNDAY: March 31**

**Sunrise Service** at 7:00 AM. This will be a brief service followed by refreshments.

**Traditional Service** at 11 AM in the Sanctuary.

**TODAY AT COVENANT**

Liturgist: Christian Zembower

Accompanist: Jeremi Lukanus

**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

Office Administrator: Tina Simon