

MAY 12, 2024

ASCENSION 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.

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

Pentecost Offering: Maggie Rust

GREETING

One: The Lord Jesus Christ has risen to reign;

All: **His is the name above all names.**

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 47

One: Clap your hands, all you peoples:
shout to God with loud songs to joy!

All: **For the Lord is awe-inspiring,
the great Ruler over all creation.**

One: God subdues the wicked and raises up the humble.
God prepares a good inheritance for us,
God's own beloved children.

All: **God has ascended the throne with a shout!
The Lord has gone up with a trumpet blast!**

One: God sits enthroned in holy splendor,
exalted above every leader and nation.

All: **Sing praise to God, sing praise!
Worship the Lord who rules over all the earth.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 267**

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, you have asked us to proclaim your good news of compassion and grace to all people. We confess that we have held back from doing so, shy and self-conscious. Forgive us we pray, and empower our witness, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, the promise of our faith is that we are already forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus. Let us bear witness to Christ's resurrection power and proclaim the grace we have received!

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

SHARING THE PEACE

One: May the God of earth and heaven, the risen and ascended Christ, and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit, give you peace.
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC "Open My Eyes That I May See" by Jerry Cauley

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 192—NT) Ephesians 1:15-23

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 260 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

SECOND LESSON (p. 118—NT) Acts 1:1-11

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 Westminster Catechism

Question 53: How was Christ exalted in his ascension?

Answer: **Christ was exalted in his ascension, in that having, after his resurrection, often appeared unto, and conversed with his apostles, speaking to them of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God, and giving them commission to preach the gospel to all nations; forty days after his resurrection, he, in our human nature, visibly went up into the highest heavens, there to receive our worship and praise, to intercede in prayer on our behalf, and to prepare a place for us, where himself is, and shall continue until his second coming.**

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 # 295

"Go to the World!"

*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.

SPRING RECITAL: MAY 13, 2024

Jeremi and Katelyn will be performing a spring recital at St. John's Episcopal Church in Johnson City on **Monday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m.** Katelyn will be performing 4 arias that I have been working on since last semester, and Jeremi will be playing some beautiful piano pieces and his own original composition. Plus, there will be many more surprise pieces!

PENTECOST AND POTLUCK LUNCH – MAY 19, 2024

Next Sunday, during our Hymn Sing Service, we will receive the 2024 Pentecost Offering. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church as a whole to encourage, develop and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Offering will remain with Covenant and will be given to local mission projects making an impact in the lives of youth within our own community. Please give generously.

Following the service, please join us for our monthly Potluck Lunch, which we're delaying one week due to Mother's Day. The theme is **Mom's Famous Recipes!** At the Potluck, we will pack bags of food collected for Boone's Creek Elementary School – please see the insert for those details.

COURIER DEADLINE

The deadline for the June Courier is **Wednesday, May 15.** Please send announcements for the newsletter and meeting/event dates for the calendar to Tina at office@cpcjc.org.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Liturgist: Gary Smith

Accompanist: Jeremi Lukanus

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust

Music Director: Katelyn Gabler

Office Administrator: Tina Simon