



# Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY**

**Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust**

Covenant is proud to be an **Earth Care Congregation**; a **More Light Church** – supporting the LGBTQ+ community; a **PC(USA) Matthew 25 Church** – committed to dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty, and building congregational vitality; and a **Recovery Congregation** certified by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



**ALL ARE WELCOME!** We are glad you are here. If you are visiting, we invite you to fill out a Visitor Card and place it in the offering plate. If you are seeking a church home, Pastor Maggie would be happy to talk to you about your faith journey and church membership after the service.

## TODAY AT COVENANT

In the pulpit: Cynthia Erdei

Liturgist: Ron Smith

Accompanist: Bowen Yi

423-282-5324 ♦ [www.cpcjc.org](http://www.cpcjc.org)

Find us on 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: The Lord is our refuge and strength,

**All: in God do we place our hope.**

### PRELUDE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 66

One: Shout to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of God's name and give glorious praise!

**All: Say to the Lord, "How awesome are your deeds! How mighty are your acts!"**

One: The whole earth worships you and sings praise! Come and witness the works of God.

**All: God's deeds on our behalf are wondrous! We shall rejoice in God's reign forever.**

One: Bless the Lord all you people; let the sound of God's praise be heard!

**All: God has kept us secure and has not let our feet slip; through fire and water, the Lord has brought us to a place of abundance.**

One: O God, you have refined us like silver.

We will come into your house with offerings and serve you all our days.

**All: Come bless the Lord, who has done wondrous things for us!**

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE # 353

*"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, trusting you does not always come easy when each day we are faced with the ugliness of the world. We struggle to believe love conquers fear; we are not convinced that power comes through weakness. Forgive our lack of faith, O God, and renew our trust in you to bring healing and wholeness. Kindle our hope and lead us in your service as disciples of Jesus Christ, in whom we pray. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, God loves us, forgives us, and frees us from our sins; therefore, love with boldness and generosity.

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

## SHARING THE PEACE

One: Accept the peace that the Spirit gives.  
May the deep peace of the Prince of Peace be within and around you.  
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*“Whispering Hope”*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST LESSON (p. 61—NT)

Luke 4:16-21

#### \*HYMN OF INVITATION # 772

*“Live into Hope”*

#### SECOND LESSON (p. 234—NT)

1 Peter 3:8-15

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

Cynthia Erdei

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*“Whispering Hope”*

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *the Confession of 1967*

**Biblical images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and the unending day – culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists God’s holy will and disrupts God’s good creation. Already Christ’s reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring up hope and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointments and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final victory of God.**

### 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 # 765

*“May the God of Hope Go with Us”*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

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**Large-Print Hymnals & Hearing Assist Devices** are available in the back of the sanctuary.

**Pastor Maggie** is serving as a Holston Presbytery Commissioner to the PC(USA) General Assembly in Salt Lake City this week. She will be back in the pulpit next week. If you have any pastoral concerns, please contact the church office.

The **July Courier** has been emailed to you. There are printed copies on the table in the Narthex. You may also find the newsletter and the calendar on our website at [cpcjc.org](http://cpcjc.org). **Please read it to find the July announcements that are not in this bulletin.**

### COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. All are welcome at the table, and we invite you to be in prayer this week about how you will receive the sacrament. We will also be taking up the 5 Cents a Meal Offering.

### BACKPACKS FOR BABMOC

It’s time again to collect Backpacks for BABMOC! Backpacks can be filled with school supplies – pens, pencils, erasers, Composition Books, compasses, rulers, protractors, and glue sticks. Please bring them to Covenant up until September 15. There is a bin in the Narthex. Or, you may make a monetary donation at [www.babmoc.org](http://www.babmoc.org) or make your check payable to Covenant and note “BABMOC” in the memo line and drop it in the offering plate. Thank you for your participation!

### IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Reg Murphy; John & Linda Honaker (previous members and daughter of Frank Lamons); Tom Wolf (Julie Wood’s brother); Estelle Armistead; Kendall Harris; Brian Smith (Gary & Anne’s grandson); Sharon Benner; those affected by gun violence; victims of climate change and natural disasters; for peace in areas of conflict: Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine.

*Join us in continually lifting up in prayer our mission co-workers:*

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan

The Adams Maldonado Family: Frontera de Cristo

*and these Covenant ministry partners:*

UKirk ETSU ☩ Holston Presbytery Camp

Good Samaritan Ministry ☩ The River ☩ BABMOC