

**JULY 7, 2024 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



## 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

Liturgist: Anne Trask

Accompanist: Liesl Huhn

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: Surely the Lord is in this place!

All: **This is the house of God.**

#### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 29

One: Give glory to God, O heavenly beings; ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!  
Give the glory that God's holy name deserves, and worship the Lord in splendor!

All: **The voice of the Lord resounds over the water; the God of glory thunders over the sea! God's voice is powerful and full of majesty.**

One: The voice of the Lord snaps the cedars, shattering the strong cedars of Lebanon.  
The voice of the Lord strikes with bolts of lightning;  
the voice of the Lord flashes forth in flame.

All: **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the voice of God twists the oaks and strips the forest bare. And in the temple, all cry, "Glory!"**

One: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; God will rule forever.  
May almighty God give the people strength!

All: **May the Lord bless the people with peace.**

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE # 37

*"Let All Things Now Living"*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creator God, we confess that all too often we have ignored and denied your lordship over a land entrusted to us. We have assumed the right to seize what we please, taken for granted the fruit it produced, and put material concerns above the higher purposes to which you call us. Forgive us Lord. Make us better stewards of creation and servants of your Kingdom. Cultivate in us a deeper love for this earth you've made and all that dwell in it. This we ask through Christ our Redeemer, who so loved the world that he gave himself up for it. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: Our world, though broken and scarred, still belongs to God, who holds it together and gives us grace and hope. With the whole of creation we join the song: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power, wisdom and might; honor and glory and blessing, forever! Righteousness and peace shall flourish, and all of creation will be made new!

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

## SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be in your heart, your mind, and your life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### SPECIAL MUSIC

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 137—NT)

Acts 17:22-27

\*HYMN OF INVITATION # 340

“This Is My Song”

SECOND LESSON (p. 1—OT)

Genesis 1:20-2:3

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 PC(USA) *Brief Statement of Faith*

**In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, God makes us heirs with Christ of the new covenant of grace. Like a mother who will not forsake her child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy...

...forever sing to the glory of your name:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

One: You are holy, O God of majesty...

...the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit...

...almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**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.**

### SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

## GOING OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN OF BLESSING # 497

“Bread of Life from Heaven”

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

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

**Please refer to your July newsletter for more announcements.**

## 5 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

The basket is out for the 5 Cents a Meal Offering. Please consider giving 5 cents for each meal you have eaten in the last month (or any amount you wish) to help fund local and global programs to feed the hungry.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY POTLUCK

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, July 14, for our monthly Potluck lunch. BBQ** (meat, sauce, & bread) **from The Firehouse** will be provided so please bring a side salad or dessert to share with the congregation. Isaac Mayon, the Director of the Bear Another’s Burdens Ministry of Christ (BABMOC) School in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa, will join us.

## IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Reg Murphy; Laura Phillips; John & Linda Honaker (previous members and daughter of Frank Lamons); Tina Simon; 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