

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

### SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

### RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

#### GREETING

This is the day the Lord has made!  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

#### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
**and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.**

There is no speech, nor are there words;  
**their voice is not heard;**  
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
**and their words to the end of the world.**

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
**reviving the soul;**  
the decrees of the LORD are sure,  
**making wise the simple;**  
the precepts of the LORD are right,  
**rejoicing the heart;**  
the commandment of the LORD is clear,  
**enlightening the eyes;**  
the fear of the LORD is pure,  
**enduring forever;**  
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.  
**More to be desired are they than gold,**  
**even much fine gold;**  
**sweeter also than honey,**  
**and drippings of the honeycomb.**

#### \*OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 490                      *“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Strong and loving God,  
We confess that we are sometimes confused  
by the messages from Your Word.  
We want to be instruments for your peace and yet...  
we want to act boldly—even dramatically—  
to bring attention to injustices and wrongs we see around us.  
What are we to do? And when are we to do it? How do we know?

**Forgive us when we get it wrong.**  
**Direct our thoughts, for our thoughts**  
**guide our actions, and all else follows.**  
**Set us anew on the path you would have us follow.**  
**Help us too to be strong and loving.**  
**We pray in the name of the one who came to show us the way. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, Believe the good news!  
The one who came to show us the way  
is with us still and will show us the way even now.  
In Jesus Christ we are made new, forgiven and blessed.  
**Thanks be to God!**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 314 (chorus)                      *“Christ, Be Our Light”*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

#### \*THE PEACE

Leader: As people forgiven by the abundant grace of God,  
we are at peace with God,  
and we are called to live in peace with one another.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ  
with those near you.

\*\*Gateway to Worship *(Children can meet the Gateway leader in the back of the sanctuary near the entrance doors.)*

### HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON TEXT *(pg. 93—NT)*    John 2:13-25

SERMON                      Unexamined Assumptions                      Rev. Edward Wolff

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 402    *“How Lovely, Lord”*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH    The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### 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.**

#### GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**Offering**

**Offertory**

\*Doxology # 607    *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

\*Prayer of Dedication

### GOING OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN OF SENDING # 394    *“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”*

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

\*For those who are able, please stand.

NOTE: All music reprinted under CCLI license

\*\*Gateway to Worship is our worship program for 4-year olds through first graders. The Gateway leader will take the children to their classroom in the Fellowship Hall after the Congregational Response.

Large-print Hymnals are available in the back of the sanctuary; and **large-print bulletins** are on the table in the Narthex.

Hearing Assist Devices are located in the rear of the Sanctuary. Disposable ear buds are available for your convenience. They can be disposed after use in the labeled slot. **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.

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We are glad you are here. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join with us in service to Christ.

*Please join us in the library immediately following worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments.*

*The congregation expresses its deepest sympathy to Victory Cooper in the death of her cousin, Debbie DeMay; and to Bill, Ann, James and Melissa Freeman in the death of Bill's mother, Jean Marie Freeman, on January 13.*

**We welcome the Rev. Edward Wolff to the pulpit this morning.**

### NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

**This morning we welcome our new Director of Music, Jessica Siple.** Throughout Jessica's career, she has served the Church as a Director of Christian Education, Organist, Choir Director, and Children's Choir Director in Florida, North Carolina, and Tennessee in several denominations. Jessica holds a B.A. from Meredith College, has done five years of piano graduate studies at Middle Tennessee State University, and has done advanced training in Suzuki Method Piano.

As Covenant's Music Director, Jessica will provide organ and piano accompaniment, choir direction, bell choir direction, music selection (in partnership with the pastor), and oversight of the Children's Choir (in partnership with Anne Smith).

We are so excited to welcome Jessica and to support her as she shares with us her experience and talent, and as she helps us to build on the beautiful, musical foundation that exists at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Please help us welcome her. Since we had to cancel last week due to weather, Jessica will direct her first Chancel Choir practice this coming Wednesday evening at 7 PM, so if you've been looking for a good opportunity to join or rejoin the choir, this is it!

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION—JANUARY 28

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held following worship **next Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**. Highlights of 2017 will be reviewed, the 2018 budget will be presented, and we will elect members of the church Nominating Committee as well as officers of the corporation. Please plan to attend! It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about what's happening at Covenant.

### GOOD SAMARITAN OFFERING – JANUARY 28

This month's Good Samaritan Food Offering will be received **next Sunday, January 28**. They need: **cereal, hot/cold, including baby cereal**. Thanks for your generosity!

### HUMOR ME! – TODAY, JANUARY 21 FROM 3 – 5 PM

Laughing is good for your health, so the idea behind this group is to laugh, have fun and feel better! We are using a variety of humor resources and we look forward to laughing with you! **We meet in the church library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from 3p – 5p.** Everyone is welcome.

## CHURCH KEYS

In order to provide our new elders with keys to the church, we're asking anyone who **no longer has need** of theirs to return it to the church office. We have no more extras and want to avoid the added expense of having more made. Thank you!

**\*\*2017 Giving Statements can be found on the table in the Narthex. Be sure to pick up your envelope.\*\***



**Members & Regular Visitors:** Your 2018 Offering Envelopes are on the table in the Narthex. If you would like a box of envelopes for 2018, but don't see your name, please call or e-mail Tina in the church office!

## MOM POWER

Covenant has a wonderful opportunity to partner with Families Free and ETSU Psychology Department in implementing **Mom Power**, a trauma-informed parenting and self-care skills group designed for mothers of young children (ages 0-5). This 10-week program begins here at Covenant on **Tuesday, February 6. Please call Julie Wood at 423-328-0788 if you would like to be a part of this exciting outreach.** Specifically, we are looking for people to help prepare the noon meal, and others to provide transportation. More information is available in the Narthex or in the church office. Thank you!

## THEOLOGIAN-IN-RESIDENCE AT TUSCULUM

**When?** Tuesdays in February (6, 13, 20, & 27) at 10:00 AM

**Where?** Chalmers Conference Center at Tusculum

The 2018 Theologian-in-Residence series will join with people around the world in commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. To make reservations, call 423-636-7303 or e-mail [bsell@tusculum.edu](mailto:bsell@tusculum.edu) or visit <https://web.tusculum.edu/church/theologian-in-residence/> for more details. There are also brochures on the table in the Narthex.

## NAME TAGS

If you are a member or a regular visitor, or even if you have just started coming to Covenant, you **most likely** have a name badge hanging on the wall in the Narthex. We're asking **everyone** to wear their name tags while at the church to make it easier to get to know each other. **If you don't find one with your name on it, please let us know!**

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

The new year has begun and with that comes the need for **ushers** and for **elders to volunteer to serve communion**. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please use them to let us know when you will be available to help out. Many thanks.

**After Church Refreshments:** The Congregational Life Committee will provide lemonade and coffee. We're asking members of our church family to buddy up and provide snacks. You'll find a Sign-Up sheet in the Narthex. Grab a friend, sign up, and provide some very **SIMPLE** snacks. We'll have snacks only on the days folks sign up, but we'll always have beverages. Please step forward and sign up to provide snacks for this important time of fellowship with your church family and the visitors among us.

## TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:  
Liturgy written by:  
Liturgist:  
Nursery:

Jim Starr  
the Rev. Pat Willard  
Shaunda Fales  
Madden Family

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:  
Music Director:  
Office Administrator:  
Administrative Assistant:  
Custodian:  
Nursery Worker:

Rev. Paul Helphinstine  
Jessica Siple  
Tina Simon  
Shirley Barrett  
Marie Britt  
Jeanne Gamble

## PRAYER CONCERNS

*If you have placed someone on the prayer list, please contact the office with a brief update regarding the name you submitted or let us know that it's ok to remove that name from the list. Updates can be submitted on a weekly basis or, if the need is singular and temporary, the name and the concern will remain on the list for four (4) weeks. This will help us pray more specifically and be more intentional in our prayers for one another. Thank you.*

## Week of January 21—27, 2018.

Jerry Nagel, who is recovering from back surgery.  
Butch Carr, who continues chemotherapy.  
Martha Francis, Ann Freeman's mother, who continues to recover at home after her recent fall.  
Kendall Harris, who is battling an ongoing illness.  
Frank Wolff, Ed's brother, who is under hospice care.  
Barbara Kirkpatrick, Frankie Wolff's sister, diagnosed with Alzheimer's.  
Virginia McGuire, Lucy Terry's sister, who has stage 4 cancer.

*Please remember those in our congregation who are homebound and unable to join us regularly in worship:*

Vi Block; Jeter Collins, Helen Fletcher

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

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan  
Jon & Kathy Christiansen: Zimbabwe



In the event of emergency, be aware that our Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Unit is located on the wall outside the front door of the Church Office.

Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud to have received the designation of being an Earth Care Congregation, through the PC(USA).

Covenant Presbyterian Church has been certified as a **Recovery Congregation** by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



## 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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

**January 21, 2018**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**



## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Patient God,  
Your son, Jesus, expressed anger  
at abuses and injustice.  
Help us to show concern, not apathy,  
for injustice in our world,  
and teach us to work to make right  
all that may be wrong. Amen.

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

### Today, January 21

9:45a Sunday School  
11:00a Worship Service  
12:30p Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting  
**3p – 5p Humor Me!**  
7:00p N.A. Meeting

### Monday, January 22

7:00p NarAnon Meeting

### Tuesday, January 23

6:30p Cub Scouts  
7:00p Al-Anon Meeting

### Wednesday, January 24

**6:00p GROW**  
6:00p Handbell Choir (?)  
6:30p SAFG  
7:00p Chancel Choir  
7:00p N.A. Meeting

### Thursday, January 25

8:00a Men's Bible Study  
Noon Al-Anon Meeting  
**2:00p – 4:00p Bridge/Other Games**  
6:00p CoDA Meeting  
6:00p ITC Meeting  
6:00p Hope Grows Cancer Support Group

### Friday, January 26

1:30p N.A. Meeting