

WELCOME to this evening worship service of praise and readings, of reflection and introspection, of silence and music. We hope this is a quiet time when you can listen for the heartbeat of God within yourself, in each other, and in all creation.

Prelude

Sounding of the Chime

OPENING

Reading HOW IT IS WITH US AND HOW IT IS WITH THEM
a poem by Mary Oliver

We become religious,
and then we turn from it,
then we are in need and maybe we turn back.
We turn to making money,
then we turn to the moral life,
then we think about money again.
We meet wonderful people but lose them
in our busyness.
We're, as the saying goes, all over the place.
Steadfastness, it seems,
is more about dogs than about us.
One of the reasons we love them so much.

Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around

silence

Prayer for Presence J. Philip Newell

Chant: *As a Deer Longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you.*
Ps 42:1

silence

THE WORD OF GOD

Leader: O God, as these words are read,
ALL: may we feel your presence.

Reader: Psalm 42

Silence is observed after the reading

Cynthia Erdei Reflection

Music for Meditation

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

please stand

Let us pray responsively

For the darkness of the night
enveloping the earth
enclosing the day's labour
thanks be to you, O God.

For the quiet that surrounds me
and your promise of peace deep within me
for the stillness of sleep for my body
and the hope of healing for my soul
thanks be to you.

I bring not only my own weariness
but the tiredness of people who struggle this night.
I bring not only my own pain
but the sufferings of those who cry out.
hear my soul's prayers for rest, O God,
hear my heart's plea for healing.

--Sounds of the Eternal

please sit

Recall the events of the day and pray for the life of the world

PRIVATE PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND FOR OURSELVES

This is a time to pray silently for others and for ourselves as guided by the words.

We bring to God
someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer....

We bring to God
a troubled situation in our world tonight....

We bring to God
someone who we find hard to forgive or trust....

We bring ourselves to God
that we might grow in generosity of spirit,
clarity of mind,
and warmth of affection....

Amen.

Prayer for creativity J. Philip Newell

Chant: You shall be like a garden,
like a deep spring where waters never fail. Isa 58:11

silence

*In a dream, in a vision of the night,
when deep sleep falls on mortals,
while they slumber on their beds,
then God opens their ears.*

Job 33:15-16

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

please stand

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

please sit

CLOSING

Bless my body and soul this night
that I may be renewed in the forgetfulness of sleep.
Visit me in my dreams
that I may remember my birth in you.
Protect me with your angels of brightness, O God,
that I may awake to the freshness of the morning,
that I may awake to You as the new day's freshness.

--Sounds of the Eternal

Sounding of the Chime

Postlude

Please feel free to depart the service during the postlude, as you wish.

Your Last Act of Worship: as you leave the sanctuary, you are invited to place your love offering in the basket by the door. Tonight's offering will benefit John Phillip Newell's organization, Heartbeat: A Sacred Journey Towards Earth's Wellbeing; and Covenant Presbyterian Church, as the host church.

Thank you for being part of this worship. Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the church library immediately following the service.

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.

This service of worship in the Celtic tradition was planned by: Mary O’Keeffe, Don Hart, Cynthia Erdei, Pat Willard (Covenant), Sue and Stephen Shanks (Watauga), and Rev. Kaye Florence (Jonesborough), most of whom are leading the service and all of whom helped make this opportunity possible. We are deeply grateful for the voice of J. Philip Newell in his writings, prayers and chants and for Heartbeat, the U.S. organization that supports his work and vision.

The recorded prayers and chants used in this service are from the CD, *Sounds of the Eternal*. The voice you hear praying is that of J Philip Newell; the chanter is Suzanne Butler. Stephen Shanks will lead us as we join in the chants.

Note: All music reprinted under CCLI license



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY



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.

CELTIC EVENSONG

a worship service in the Celtic tradition



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
JANUARY 26, 2020

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