

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

"Keep Me Ever Near"

Frick

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit is calling.
We will listen and learn.
The heavens are shining.
We will sing and rejoice.
The Spirit is moving.
We will live the promises of God.

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 14 (vs. 1, 2, 4, 5)

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
**in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.
Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The heavens are telling the glory of God. Do not be sad, for the joy of God is our strength and our salvation. Christ came to proclaim release from captivity, even captivity to sin.

In Christ, we are forgiven and made new. Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 688 (vs. 5)

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"
Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame;
the baptism of the heaven descended Dove,
my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

*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

PSALM RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 19:1-14

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

Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

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.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.

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.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING (pg. 436—OT)

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

GOSPEL READING (pg. 61—NT)

Luke 4:14-21

SERMON

Can You See It?

Rev. Paul Helphinstine

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 451

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Opening Response

Leader: There are varieties of gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**People: There are different ways of serving God,
But it is the same Lord who is served.**

Leader: God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**People: To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.**

Leader: Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination and Installation

*Affirmation of Faith from *A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.2*

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God,
the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.**

Constitutional Questions

Ruling Elder Invitation

Prayer for Ordination

Declaration for Ordination and Installation

Charge

Heb. 12:1-4, 12-14

Welcome

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

"In This Holy Place"

Frick/Wesley

*Doxology # 609 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF SENDING # 610 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE "The Power & the Glory" Nolte

*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.

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

This morning Pat Smith and Frankie Wolff are being ordained as Ruling Elders. Don Hart and Bud King, who were previously ordained, and Pat Smith and Frankie Wolff are being installed for a 3-year term on session of Covenant Presbyterian Church. Together we express our gratitude to Estelle Armistead, Bob Hart, Michele Hart and Chris Sutter for their faithful and generous service over the past three years.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Please join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Highlights of 2018 will be reviewed, the 2019 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.

COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY

The SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER will be celebrated next Sunday. Take time this week to prepare yourself in prayer and meditation.



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.



TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgy written by:
Liturgist:
Accompanist:
Nursery:

Jim Starr
the Rev. Pat Willard
Emily Helphinstine
Anne Smith
Gina Long

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 27—February 2, 2019.

- Nina Cockerham, Donna Bridwell's 90-year-old mother, who is in very poor health and fell and broke her hip. She had surgery on Thursday.
- Dave Benner, who is recovering in the hospital. Next week he, hopefully, will begin treatment for recurrence of lymphoma.
- John and Allison Sharpe's (Harry Powell's daughter) one-month-old goddaughter is in the ICU with a serious cardiac issue. Please lift up baby Emersyn and her parents, Heidi and Katie.
- Ivy Finn, infant daughter of friends of Dave & Julie Wood, who has a severe heart condition. Ivy's life-saving heart surgery is scheduled for Jan. 29.
- David DeWeese, who has been in Bristol Regional Medical Center this week.
- Bonnie Mae Miller, Marie Britt's sister-in-law, who was in the hospital this week and may have to be placed in assisted living.
- Reg Murphy, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- Carl Hughes, Margie McGonagle's husband, who is recovering at home.
- Martha Francis, Ann Freeman's mother, who is recovering from serious heart and lung issues.
- Charlan Freundl, Stacy Larsen's mother, who has been diagnosed with ALS.
- Vi Block, who has been in rehab for blood clots in her legs.
- Carrie Beth Swanay, Betsy Moakler's cousin, whose cancer has spread.
- Bob Hart, who has been ill and is asking for prayer to regain his energy.
- Kendall Harris, who continues treatment for his blood condition.

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

- Vi Block, Butch Carr, Jeter Collins, Lattie Collins,
Mary Derouen, Helen Fletcher, Barbara Quisenberry,
Audrey Thompson, CB Willis

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

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

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Facebook: "Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)"
Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

January 27, 2018
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Ordination and Installation of Elders

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Everything

I want to make poems that say right out, plainly, what I mean, that don't go looking for the laces of elaboration, puffed sleeves. I want to keep close and use often words like heavy, heart, joy, soon, and to cherish the question mark and her bold sister the dash. I want to write with quiet hands. I want to write while crossing the fields that are fresh with daisies and everlasting and the ordinary grass. I want to make poems while thinking of the bread of heaven and the cup of astonishment; let them be songs in which nothing is neglected, not a hope, not a promise. I want to make poems that look into the earth and the heavens and see the unseeable. I want them to honor both the heart of faith, and the light of the world; the gladness that says, without any words, everything.

Mary Oliver (1935-2019)
[*see bulletin insert]

* (Note about the poem on the front of the bulletin.)

Today we remember Mary Oliver who died January 17, 2019. Her poetry is loved by church people. In a 2017 essay in the *Christian Century*, Debra Dean Murphy calls her “a mystic of the natural world,” and cites three elements of Oliver’s poetry that are enriching for Christians: “her way of regarding the created order,” which encourages “a deeply theological vision of the world”; “a deep love of neighbor”; and a “relative lack of theological sophistication” that challenges “the cynicism of our times.” The poem *Everything* is found in her book, *New and Selected Poems, Volume Two* published by Beacon Press.

BEAR ANOTHERS BURDENS MINISTRY OF CHRIST

Help! BABMOC is looking for folks from Covenant to serve on our Board. You can be involved as much or as little as you want. There is not a skill-set that we do not need. Tasks we could use help with include jobs like stuffing envelopes, helping organize events, school curriculum review, business accounting skills, and digital media, among others. If you think you are being called to be a part of another cause to help others, or are ready to make a change in your volunteer work, contact Matt Cary at mcarymd@aol.com, 423-737-5379 or Virginia Farr at Vsfarr@aol.com, 423-914-8140. or Like us on Facebook: Isaac's Dream for Liberian Kids Babmoc or visit us at www.babmoc.org.

DESCENT AND TRANSFORMATION – FEBRUARY 9, 10A – 2P

Come and hear and discuss video-talks by Richard Rohr and Dr. Barbara Holmes from their **CONSPIRE 2018 Conference** with the theme of “**The Path of Descent is the Path of Transformation**”.

On **February 9th from 10am–2pm**, Covenant Presbyterian Church and St. Mary’s Parish are co-sponsoring a gathering in the Fellowship Hall at Covenant Presbyterian Church to hear and discuss 3 talks from Richard Rohr’s CONSPIRE 2018 Conference, which had the theme of “The Path of Descent is the Path of Transformation”. We will watch two talks by Father Richard Rohr and one talk by Barbara Holms, PhD. We will have opportunity for discussion throughout the talks. We will also share a lunch together. Our hope is that this gathering will bring together those interested in a deeper spiritual walk to guide our engagement in social action.

To see a video from Richard Rohr about Conspire 2018 please go to: <https://cac.org/conspire2018>.

Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest and teaches primarily on incarnational mysticism, nondual consciousness, and contemplation, with a particular emphasis on how these affect the social justice issues of our time.

Dr. Barbara Holmes received a Doctor of Philosophy in Religion (Ethics) from Vanderbilt, and is a spiritual teacher and writer focused on African American spirituality.

RSVP: We will be providing lunch so we would appreciate getting an accurate head count. Please RSVP via 1) email to office@cpcjc.org or via the Facebook Event Page: “Descent and Transformation”.

Discussion Leaders: Father Peter Iorio, Rev. Ed Wolff, and Dr. David Wood.

THE CHILI GATHERING – SUNDAY, FEB. 10, 3—5 PM

On March 31, 1968, just days before his assassination, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke these words from the pulpit of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.:

“We must face the sad fact that at eleven o’clock on Sunday morning when we stand to sing ‘In Christ there is no East or West,’ we stand in the most segregated hour of America.”

We don’t have to look very far in our world, and sadly in our own community, to realize that not much has changed since Dr. King spoke these words over fifty years ago. Realizing that we don’t want our children and grandchildren to regretfully say the same thing fifty years from now, representatives from Thankful Baptist Church and Covenant Presbyterian Church began meeting together a few months ago to create an event to remind us that the Church is best when the Church is whole. That event is simply called **The Gathering**.

The Gathering is a small step, but a significant one, where we seek to know, not just our neighbors, but our brothers and sisters in Christ here in Johnson City. **The Gathering** is an intergenerational, inter-racial FUN event where we will laugh together, play together, sing together, and of course EAT TOGETHER. Many churches have been invited and all are welcome as we seek to regain even just a glimpse of the Church that Jesus had in mind.

Building on the success of our first “The Gathering” in October, pastors from several churches are honing their skills for a church chili cookout! The pastors from a number of local congregations are either preparing or assisting in the preparation of chili to enter into the contest. The Chili Gathering will take place at the Carver Recreation Center (322 W. Watauga Ave.) on Sunday, February 10th from 3:00—5:00 PM. Although the weather may be “chilly” on the first Sunday of February, The Chili Gathering promises to be a warm and friendly event.

All we ask now is that you put **The Gathering** on your calendar. Plan to attend, and plan to celebrate the joy, the beauty, and the richness of the Church of Jesus Christ with friends in Johnson City. The Chili promises to be good, too! Come to **The Chili Gathering!**

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, Jan. 27

9:30a – 9:55a

10:00a

11:00a

Following worship:

12:30p

7:00p

Monday, Jan. 28

8:30a

5:00p

7:00p

Tuesday, Jan. 29

8:30a

6:30p

7:00p

Wednesday, Jan. 30

6:00p

6:00p

6:30p

7:00p

7:00p

Thursday, Jan. 31

8:00a

Noon

2:00p – 4:00p

Friday, Feb. 1

Noon

1:30p

Weekly Prayer Group

Sunday School

Worship Service

Annual Meeting of the Congregational

Mission Committee Meeting

N.A. Meeting

N.A. Meeting

UKirk Meal

NarAnon Meeting

N.A. Meeting

Cub Scouts

Al-Anon Meeting

GROW

Handbell Choir

SAFG

Chancel Choir

N.A. Meeting

Men’s Bible Study this week

Al-Anon Meeting

Bridge & Games in the Library

CoDA Meeting

N.A. Meeting

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.