

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

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.
Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

*Psalm 126, one of the ‘songs of ascent’ sung by the Israelites
on their way up to Jerusalem*

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 12

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God,
Sometimes when I need to be kind, I am not.
Sometimes when I need to listen, I can't and I don't.
There are times when I need to express my love,
and I do so ineffectively.
When I need to be loved, I often do not seek it.
Help me to see others more clearly,
teach me to care for their needs;
Help me to know myself better,
encourage me to care for my own needs;
For it is in loving ourselves and our neighbors as ourselves
that we follow the wisdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, Believe the good news!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and drawn deeper into the Lenten journey.
Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 417 (vs. 1)

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin.
From earthborn passions set me free,
and make me pure within.

*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. 106—NT*)

John 12:20-33

SERMON

Drawn to Jesus

Rev. Lee Clements

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 182

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of the chosen people, during this time of preparation,
we remember with grateful hearts,
the life and work of your Son, Jesus the Messiah.

He came to teach us how to live life fully and faithfully.

He showed us that obedience to your will

does not always lead down painless paths,

but does end in rewards beyond our imagining.

Give us the courage to follow faithfully,

knowing that your steadfast love will be with us forever. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.2

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.

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 Anthem

“The Prayer of St. Patrick”

Schweizer

Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger.

Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,

Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.

*Doxology # 711 (v. 3)

“Lord of All Good”

Father, whose bounty all creation shows;

Christ by whose willing sacrifice we live;

Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:

to you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF SENDING # 734

“Hope of the World”

*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.*

This morning we welcome back to the pulpit the Rev. Lee Clements. Lee, a native of Louisville, KY, earned her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (LPTS). Ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in October 2002, she served churches in Lexington, KY, and Martin, TN, until her retirement in 2015. Before attending seminary, Lee completed a career as a U.S. Naval officer. She is married to Stuart, a retired U.S. Naval aviator, who is a ruling elder and deacon in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

****No GROW this week (OR next week—movie will be shown instead)**

Paul is out of town this week. **If you have an emergency**, please call Tina in the church office at 423-282-5324 or on her cell at 423-342-8351, or call Mary O’Keeffe, Clerk of Session, at 423-610-0281.

EASTER LILIES—ORDER DEADLINE IS TODAY

The Worship Committee will be placing lilies in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 1. They will be de-pollen-ed and hypoallergenic for the comfort of our members who have allergies. Cost is \$10 each. **Order forms are in your bulletin** and on the table in the Narthex; the lilies may be gifted to the church in honor of or in memory of family or loved ones.

HABITAT BUILD

Gentle Reminder: Covenant’s turn at the Habitat Build is **this Wed., March 21—Sat., March 24!** Call Tony Madden at 423-557-8873 with questions.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER MEAL & SERVICE

You are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall at **6:00 PM on Maundy Thursday, March 29, for a Passover meal (Seder).** For meal preparation purposes, we need to know how many people will be coming so **please sign up in the Narthex!! (Deadline to sign up is March 26.)**



PALM SUNDAY

March 25, 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

In place of GROW:

Movie: Celui Qui Doit Mourir (He Who Must Die)
March 28, 5:30 PM in the Library. (See insert for details.)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 29, 6:00 PM

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a Passover meal (Seder). Watauga Avenue Presbyterian Church has been invited to join us. **Please sign up in the Narthex or by calling or e-mailing the church office by March 26 (282-5324 or office@cpcjc.org).**

GOOD FRIDAY

March 30, 6:00 PM

There will be a Tenebrae Service/Service of Shadows at Watauga Avenue Presbyterian Church beginning at 6:00 PM. (610 E. Watauga Ave., J.C.) We encourage everyone to attend.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 1

Sunrise Service at 7:00 AM

This will be a brief service. Meet in the Narthex.

Traditional Service at 11 AM in the Sanctuary.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ **HUMOR ME! – TODAY**
Join us in the Library **today** from 3—5 PM for **Humor Me!**
- ◆ **THE LUNCH BUNCH:**
Wed., **March 21** at 11:30a: Wok and Hibachi, 101 E. Unaka Ave. **RSVP to Victory Cooper at 282-4641** so she can make reservations.
- ◆ **GOOD SAMARITAN OFFERING – MARCH 25**
Our next Good Samaritan Food Offering will be received **next Sunday, March 25**. This month they need: **Canned Meats (Vienna Sausage, beef stew, etc.)**. Thank you for your continuing generosity!

BOOKS FOR THE CHILDREN IN LIBERIA

BABMOC's school in Liberia needs books for its library. If you have any books—fiction or non-fiction—that are appropriate for children and teens, please bring them **by Sunday, April 15th**. There is a bin in the Narthex. Isaac Mayon, our school director, will be visiting on that Sunday and plans to take the books with him to New Jersey for shipping to Monrovia, Liberia. Thanks, Matt Cary

www.isaacsdream.org, Facebook: *Isaac's Dream for Liberian Kids*

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!**

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:
Nursery:

Jim Starr
the Rev. Pat Willard
Janet Powell
John Deaton

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.

Week of March 18—24, 2018.

Mary Derouen, who is having numerous health issues.
Corrina Casson, Linda Sisk's daughter and wife of Pastor Casson at Wesley UMC, who is waiting on test results for cancer and Lupus.
Mark Jones, who is recovering well from eye surgery.
Frankie Wolff, whose test results showed lump from thyroid was benign.
Pat Smith, who is recovering well from back surgery.
Butch Carr, who is scheduled for a procedure the first week in April.
Mary Lynn Moser, BJ King's sister, who is having radiation treatments again.
Ken Brumit, Betsy Moakler's father, who is very ill.
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).

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

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604
423-282-5324 ♦ fax 423-282-5346 ♦ office@cpcjc.org ♦ www.cpcjc.org
Facebook: "Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)"
Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

March 18, 2018
5th Sunday in Lent



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Out of the rocks of fallen wood and leaves, fresh sprouts arise, from which the lesson seems to have been that from death springs life, and out of death new birth.

Joseph Campbell, The Power of Myth

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLES

Joy Circle: Tues., March 20 at 7:00p in the Bible Discovery classroom

ALL CHURCH RETREAT REGISTRATION

Holston Camp and Retreat Center: August 24 – 26, 2018

Deadline to Register is Sunday, April 29

Sure it's early, but it's time to SIGN UP so we can confirm our reservation at Camp! **Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center** is a beautiful site surrounded by mountains, trees and two lakes. Biking, swimming, zip-lining, crafts, campfires, worship and fellowship with your church brothers and sisters will be on the agenda. You may turn your registration form, which can be found on the table in the Narthex, along with your payment, in the offering plate or to Tina in the church office. The cost this year will be \$125/person, children are still free. Questions? Call Betsy Moakler at 423-314-7143.

Wednesday, March 28 at 5:30p

In place of GROW during Holy Week, the following movie will be shown in the Library:

Celui Qui Doit Mourir (HE WHO MUST DIE) is arguably the best 'Christ Story' ever filmed. This French movie was produced in 1957 and released in this country in 1958. It is black and white with English subtitles and is approximately 122 minutes long.

The story is set in a small Greek village during the 1920s when Greece was occupied by the Turks. There is conflict between the Turks and the Greeks and conflict between the intact, but occupied, village and the villagers from a burned out village trying to relocate nearby.

Easter is approaching and the village is preparing for its annual passion play. Starring Jean Servais, Pierre Vanneck, and Melina Mercouri, this movie was part of the 1957 Cannes Film Festival.

Save the Date: Blood Drive at Covenant, Sunday, April 8. The American Red Cross will park the bloodmobile bus in the front driveway and accept donations from **Noon–4:00pm**. Appointments are encouraged so it goes faster for you. For more information or to set an appointment contact Gwen Hunter grhunter1951@gmail.com 423-612-6559, or go to www.RedCrossBlood.org and reserve your time.

Mark Your Calendars: April 21, 2018

In celebration of Earth Day 2018, you are invited to attend the **Awakening the Dreamer; Changing the Dream Symposium** on Saturday, April 21, 1:00–5:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Elizabethton, 119 West F Street. There is no charge to attend.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, March 18 – 5th Sunday in Lent

EASTER LILY ORDER DEADLINE

NO Confirmation Class

9:45a

11:00a

3p – 5p

7:00p

Monday, March 19

7:00p

Tuesday, March 20

11:00a

6:30p

6:30p

7:00p

7:00p

Wednesday, March 21

HABITAT BUILD

11:30a

NO GROW

6:00p

6:30p

NO Chancel Choir**

7:00p

Thursday, March 22

HABITAT BUILD

8:00a

Noon

2:00p – 4:00p

6:00p

6:00p

Friday, March 23

HABITAT BUILD

1:30p

Saturday, March 24

HABITAT BUILD

****Sunday, March 25**

9:30a

10:00a

Sunday School

Worship Service

Humor Me!

N.A. Meeting

NarAnon Meeting

Mom Power

Cub Scouts

BABMOC Meeting

JoyCircle

Al-Anon Meeting

The Lunch Bunch at Wok and Hibachi

Handbell Choir**

SAFG

N.A. Meeting

Men's Bible Study

Al-Anon Meeting

Bridge/Other Games

CoDA Meeting

"Hope Grows" Cancer Support Group

N.A. Meeting

Chancel Choir

Handbell Choir