

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

Happy is everyone who fears the LORD,
who walks in his ways.
You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.
Your spouse will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your table.
Thus shall humankind be blessed who fears the LORD.
The LORD bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.
May you see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel!
As we worship today, may our thoughts dwell upon
the almost universal desire for peace
and our longing for a good and useful life.

*from Psalm 128, one of the psalms of ascent
sung by the Israelites as they went up to Jerusalem*

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 37

"Let All Things Now Living"

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 guided along the Lenten journey.
Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 447

"We Are Forgiven"

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*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.

(continued)

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*pg. 197—OT*) Joshua 5:9-12

GOSPEL READING (*pg. 78—NT*) Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

SERMON Lost and Found Rev. Paul Helphinstine

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 649 *"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"*

*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

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 God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death

(continued)

can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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

"Into the Woods My Master Went"

*Doxology # 606

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF SENDING # 435

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

*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.*

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.

WOMEN IN POLITICS CONVERSATION FORUM

Join us this afternoon from 3—5p at the Willow Tree Coffeehouse and Music Room, 216 E. Main St. Three Johnson City women recently elected or re-elected to public office will headline a public conversation on the role of women in community service. Jenny Brock, Johnson City Mayor; Jodi Jones, Washington County Commissioner; and Michelle Treece, Johnson City School Board will share their views on public service, leadership philosophies, and thoughts on the value of women in elected positions. This free, non-partisan, and non-denominational event is open to the public and is hosted by Covenant as one of a series of public and educational events to provide opportunities for learning and growing together as a diverse community.

NEWSLETTER

The **APRIL COURIER** is on the table in the Narthex. Please be sure to read it! You will also find the newsletter and April's calendar on our website: www.cpcjc.org.

NOTE FROM TINA:

Please pick up and read the newsletter. This bulletin *does not* include all of the announcements and calendar events for April.

MOM POWER

Thank you to all of the Mom Power volunteers! The group feels so welcomed by everyone...meals and warm hospitality. The sessions are going well...mothers are learning new parenting skills, and babies are well cared for. The last session will be April 30. We will have a report for the congregation after that time.

NEW—FAMILY PROMISE THRIFT SHOP

Family Promise opens its thrift shop on April 1st! Please donate clothes, shoes and small household items to them at 215 W Watauga Avenue.

SAVE THE DATE!

Blood Drive at Covenant on Sunday, April 28 from Noon—4:00 PM.

Contact Gwen Hunter to reserve your time to give.
Grhunter1951@gmail.com

COLD & FLU SEASON

There are *Purell hand sanitizers* located throughout the building. These were given to the church as a donation to help reduce the spread of illness during cold and flu season. So shake hands (or “fist bump”) all you like, just stop by one of the hand sanitizers on your way out!

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.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgy written by:
Liturgist:
Nursery:

Jim Starr
the Rev. Pat Willard
Frankie Wolff
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. **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.*

Week of March 31—April 6, 2019.

Ivy Finn, infant daughter of friends of Dave & Julie Wood, who has finally been discharged from the hospital!
Sally Nagel, who is in rehab for physical therapy after being in the hospital.
Bob Hart, who was back in the hospital, but may be back in rehab by now.
Jim Paveglio, who is suffering from cancer as well as stage 4 kidney failure.
Jan Paveglio, whose pain has been caused by a dilated bile duct, and who is looking at rotator cuff surgery or shoulder replacement in the near future.
Tracy Stanfiel, Sharon Miller's sister who is in rehab after having bilateral knee replacements.

The congregation expresses its deepest sympathy to Sue Crandall in the death of her husband, Jim, on March 24, 2019. The Crandalls were active members of Covenant until they moved to Arizona in 2013.

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, CB Willis

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.



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

March 31, 2019
4th Sunday in Lent



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Gracious God,
in order that the children of earth
might discern good from evil
you sent your Son to be the light of the world.
As Christ shines upon us,
may we learn what pleases you,
and live in all truth and goodness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

ONLINE GIVING!

Online Giving is available through our website at **epcjc.org**. Getting started is easy—just click on the **Online Giving** link. This is a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. *If you have any questions, please contact Tina in the church office.*

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, March 31

9:00a Chancel Choir
9:30a – 9:55a Weekly Prayer Group
10:00a Sunday School
11:00a Worship Service
3p – 5p Women in Politics Forum at Willow Tree
7:00p N.A. Meeting

Monday, April 1

8:30a N.A. Meeting
10:30a Melting Pot
7:00p NarAnon Meeting

Tuesday, April 2

8:30a N.A. Meeting
11:30a – 4:30p Mom Power
6:30p Cub Scouts
7:00p Property Committee Meeting
7:00p Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, April 3

9:30p Worship Committee Meeting
11:30a The Lunch Bunch (location TBA)
6:00p GROW
6:00p Handbell Choir
6:30p SAFG
7:00p Chancel Choir
7:00p N.A. Meeting

Thursday, April 4

8:00a Men's Bible Study
Noon Al-Anon Meeting
2:00p – 4:00p Bridge & Games in the Library

Friday, April 5

Noon CoDA Meeting
1:30p N.A. Meeting