As we enter the sanctuary, let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Please sign the attendance pads at the end of the pew and turn off cell phones.)

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MINUTES FOR MISSION

Donna Bridwell

Sally Nagel

GREETING

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

People: Thanks be to God!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us dwell in God’s shelter.

Let us dwell in God’s work of art.

Come, because the Earth is the Lord’s, and God’s Earth is our home.

People: We live in God’s World; we are not alone.

We share this life with the heavens and the earth, with the waters and the land, with trees and grasses, with fish, birds, and animals, with minerals and creatures of every form, and with all our brothers and sisters.

Leader: God is good and everything God makes is good.

God is love and everything God makes is love’s fruit.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 667

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen:
You place us in your creation,
and you command us to care for it.
Your works declare glory and splendor,
you call us to praise and reverence.
Where we have degraded or destroyed earth’s bounty, forgive us.
Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us.
Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace.
Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the winds of your spirit, and sustain us with the bread of life.
In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of the new creation, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the Word of God through the prophet Ezekiel:

“I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

Sisters and brothers, hear the good news! God the Creator brings you new life, forgives and redeems you. Take hold of this forgiveness, and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus.

People: Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 240

“Alleliau, Alleliau! Give Thanks”

Alleluia, Alleliau! Give Thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleliau! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth, He is the King of creation.

Allieuia, alliaia! Give thanks to the risen Lord, Alleluia, alliaiu! Give praise to his name.

**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

READING FROM THE PSALMS (p. 354 - OT) Ps. 104:1-5; 10-25; 27-34

NEW TESTAMENT READING (p. 259 - NT) Rev. 21:1-5a; 22:1-5

ANTHEM “Creation Sings” arr. Koerts

Creation sings the Father's song; He calls the sun to wake the dawn and run the course of day 'Til evening falls in crimson rays.

His fingerprints in flakes of snow, His breath upon this spinning globe, He charts the eagle's flight; Commands the newborn baby's cry.

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing, Hallelujah!

Fill the earth with songs of worship; Tell the wonders of creation's King.

Creation gazed upon His face; The ageless One in time's embrace unveiled the Father's plan of reconciling God and man.

A second Adam walked the earth, Whose blameless life would break the curse, Whose death would set us free to live with Him eternally.

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing.

Hallelujah! Fill the earth with songs of worship; Tell the wonders of creation's King.

Creation longs for His return, When Christ shall reign upon the earth; the bitter wars that rage Are birth pains of a coming age.

When He renews the land and sky, All heaven will sing and earth reply with one resplendent theme: The glories of our God and King!

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing, Hallelujah!

Fill the earth with songs of worship; Tell the wonders of creation's King.

Let all creation stand and sing: Hallelujah!

SERMON TEXT (p. 2 - OT) Genesis 2:4b-15

SERMON Where do I begin? Rev. Paul Helphinstine

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN OF REFLECTION # 630 “Fairest Lord Jesus”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “Our World Belongs to God” articles 1, 2, 6 of the Christian Reformed Church

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—which some seek to control, but which others view with despair—we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God!

From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until his kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever. Our world belongs to him! God is King! Let the earth be glad! Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah! The Spirit is at work, renewing creation. Praise the Lord!

We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living. As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful praise, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in his world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord. And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears.

Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you.

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

Offertory “Now Is the Cool of the Day” Ritchie

*Doxology Tune: “All Creatures of Our God and King” Text by Saint Francis of Assisi

Dear Mother Earth, who day by day Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, Let them His glory also show.
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication
**GOING OUT TO SERVE**

*HYMN OF SENDING # 611 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

*Benediction*

*POSTLUDE “Celtic Celebration”*  
Martin

*For those who are able, please stand.*

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**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.

**Hearing devices and large-print Hymnals** are available in the back of the sanctuary, and large-print bulletins are on the table in the Narthex.

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**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 flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of their 30th Wedding Anniversary and Kalli’s 17th birthday by Fred & Linda Dulin.

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**GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING**

The Good Samaritan Offering will be received next Sunday, April 26th. This month they need: dish soap, laundry detergent, and shampoo.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

*Joy Circle* will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21st, at the church, in the Vision Seekers classroom. Lesson 8 will be led via group discussion.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S SPRING GATHERING**

The 2015 PW Spring Gathering will be held at Watauga Avenue Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 25th. Registration will begin at 9:15 AM. Cost is $7.00, which includes lunch, and is payable when registering. The theme is “Year of the Open Door”.

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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.

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**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.

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**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**Week of April 19 – 25, 2015**

The Hart/Kaisersatt/Russo/Ohrtman family and friends in the death of Nancy Ohrtman Hart on April 10, 2015.

Marianne Marler, Andrea Sutter’s mother, who is recovering from outpatient brain tumor surgery.

Jean Freeman, Bill’s mother, who is in the hospital with pneumonia after being treated for lung congestion and coronary artery blockage including placement of heart stent.

Helen Holyfield, Butch Carr’s 94-year-old cousin from Flag Pond who is in a nursing home in Erwin.

Mike Garrison, Christian Zembower’s brother-in-law, who just received a heart transplant.

Bill Wiley, Pat’s husband; Wilma Reever; Max Wilson; Mary Derouen; Brownee Walton; Jim & Jan Paveglio; Nell Reid’s mother; Bob Thompson, Phyllis’ father; Riley Brady; Wendi Graper, Nancy Hart’s niece; Betty Hill Haber, friend of Jan Paveglio; Deborah DeMay, cousin of Victory Cooper; Sharon Hatcher, friend of Victory Cooper; Gary Salazar, friend of Cynthia Erdei; Hazel Hinkle, John Merriss’ sister-in-law; Tracy Stanfield, Sharon Miller’s sister; Richard Burnett, Charles Trifletti’s cousin; Charles Logan, father of a friend of the Dulin’s; Delores Johnson, friend of Charles Trifletti; Ken Hamilton; Glenn McClure, friend of David Jones.

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**GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING**

Please include those who are homebound and unable to join us regularly in worship:

Elva McCarr; Vi Block

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If you know of other reasons for rejoicing or concerns you would like to share with others please complete a prayer card with your requests. (Names above remain in the bulletin for four weeks unless notified.)

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**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.”

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**TODAY AT COVENANT**

**Morning Greeter:** Jim Starr

**Liturgist:** Gary Smith

**Guitarist/Vocalist:** Ann Freeman

**Mountain Dulcimer:** Jerry Nagel

**Nursery:** Fred Dulin

**After Church Refreshments Hostesses:** Betty Maletich & Jan Paveglio

**Covenant Handbell Choir**

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**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor: Rev. Paul Helphinstine

Music Director & Accompanist: Melodye Sparks

Office Administrator: Tina Simon

Administrative Assistant Substitute: Shirley Barrett

Custodian: Marie Brit

Nursery Worker: Jeanne Gamble

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**Covenant Presbyterian Church**

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604, 423-282-5324

fax 423-282-5346; e-mail: office@pcpcjc.org; website: www.cpcjc.org
Dear Covenant family,

College students everywhere are gearing up for final exams. The last big push has already started—late night cram sessions for those last chapter tests, semester projects and papers coming due, and everyone seems to be grabbing a few last-minute extra credit assignments to pull up that GPA just a bit more. The pressure is on, and the stress is rising.

The Mission & Outreach Committee (M&O) is sponsoring “Final Exam” Care Packages to be mailed to all of our college students. (Beth Amstutz, Jimmy Cary, John Cary, Melissa Freeman, Ellen Hagelberg, Blake Jones, Sean Madden, Sean Moakler, Michael Powell, and Allura Sutter)

The boxes will be set up in the fellowship hall on Thursday afternoon, April 23rd, through Sunday, April 26th. We invite you to bring an item to contribute to one or all of the boxes. See the list below for a few potential suggestions, but do not feel constrained by this list. Be creative! There will also be a card beside each box, feel free to write a short note to our college students and sign. After the cards are signed and boxes are filled, M&O will make sure that each box has roughly the same amount of “good Covenant loving” inside and will mail boxes on Monday, April 27th.

M&O wants our college students to know that they are loved and cared for both here and away and that Covenant is holding them up throughout their final examination period and always.

All good things,
Phyllis Thompson
for the Mission & Outreach Committee

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**List of Potential Suggestions—but definitely be creative:**

- Homemade cookies
- Homemade snacks
- Crackers
- Cracker Jacks
- Popcorn
- Chewing gum
- Highlighters
- Cool pen
- Hand sanitizer
- Sticky notes
- Airborne

- Chips
- Candy
- Mints
- Kleenexes
- Paper clips
- Recorder Consort
- Handbell Choir
- Chancel Choir

You may want to bring your own card from your own family in addition to or rather than signing the community card. Either way is perfect.

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**Shepherd's Luncheon Meeting**

A luncheon meeting for all Covenant shepherds (both current and new), will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5th, in Fellowship Hall, with lunch provided to shepherds. During the luncheon meeting, there will be a review of Covenant's shepherd program, a distribution of updated documents related to the shepherd program, and the assignment (or reassignment) of “flock members” to shepherds. The luncheon meeting review will serve to new shepherds and afford a “refresher” for current shepherds.

In coordination with this meeting, Covenant is seeking new shepherds! We are all called as Christians to love and care for others, and this begins at home, within our own Covenant church family. Being a shepherd provides a gratifying opportunity to do this.

Shepherds (current and new), if you plan to attend the luncheon meeting, please add your name by May 2nd to the “Shepherd Luncheon Meeting” sign-up sheet posted in the narthex. The sign-up sheet will allow us to know how many to prepare lunch for.

Please contact Shepherd Program Coordinators Donna Bridwell or Helen Davis if you have any questions about the luncheon meeting, or about becoming a shepherd.

**This Week at Covenant**

**Today, April 19**
- 1:00 p.m. N.A. Meetings
- 7:00 p.m. N.A. Meeting

**Monday, April 20**
- 7:00 a.m. AA Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Nar-Anon Meeting

**Tuesday, April 21**
- 5:00 p.m. Hiking Club Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Property Committee Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Joy Circle
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting

**Wednesday, April 22 – Bulletin Deadline**
- 7:00 a.m. A.A. Meeting
- 5:15 p.m. Recorder Consort
- 6:15 p.m. Handbell Choir
- 7:00 p.m. N.A. Meeting
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir

**Thursday, April 23**
- 8:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. GROW
- 6:30 p.m. SAFG

**Friday, April 24**
- 7:00 a.m. AA Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. N.A. Meeting

**Saturday, April 25**
- 9:15 p.m. PW Spring Gathering at Watauga Ave. Pres. Church