

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

### PRELUDE

### SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

### WELCOME

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

### GREETING

Advent means coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

I was glad when they said to me,  
**“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”**  
Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
**Jerusalem-- built as a city that is bound firmly together.**  
To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
**as was decreed for Israel,**  
**to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**  
For there the thrones for judgment were set up,  
**the thrones of the house of David.**  
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
**“May they prosper who love you.**  
**Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”**  
For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say,  
**“Peace be within you.”**  
**For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,**  
**I will seek your good.**

### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

#### Congregation:

**“O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”**

Reader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.  
As the Lord has promised, in days to come...  
*(The candle is lit.)*

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their  
spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against  
nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

**All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

#### Congregation:

**“O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”**

### OPENING PRAYER

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE # 105

*“People Look East”*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future,  
**you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.**  
**We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,**  
**for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.**  
**We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,**  
**abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.**  
**In your mercy, forgive us.**  
**Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,**  
**and to seek things that will endure**  
**when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.**

Hal Hunter

Psalm 122:1-9

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low, now  
the glory of the Lord is revealed for the mouth of the Lord  
has spoken. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 152, vs. 4

*“What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”*

**O Jesus, while the star of grace  
impels us on to seek your face,  
let not our slothful hearts refuse  
the guidance of your light to use.**

### \*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.  
The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with 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** (*p. 631—OT*)

Isaiah 2:1-5

**GOSPEL READING** (*p. 27—NT*)

Matthew 24:36-44

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

What is the rush?

Rev. Daniel Kreiss

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### \*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 129

*“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”*

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God:  
who welcomes our laughter and moves us to wonder...**

**We believe in Christ:  
who welcomes our questions and loves us to trust...**

**We believe in Spirit:  
who welcomes our doubts and inspires us to faith.**

**This we believe! Amen!**

Jeffrey S. Gaines found in *Reformed Worship*, 2001, p 90.

### 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.**

### OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *“How Shall I Meet My Savior”* D. Schwoebel

### \*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

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy...  
...sing to the glory of your name:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: ...You are holy, O God of majesty  
...Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

Leader: Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, ...

### Words of Institution

### Communion of the People

#### Solo

*“On Christmas Eve”*

J. Sibelius

### Prayer after Communion

## GOING OUT TO SERVE

### \*HYMN OF SENDING # 96

*“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”*

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

\*Please rise, in body or spirit.

**Notes:** *All music reprinted under CCLI license*

Words on front of bulletin are from Jan L. Richardson in her book, *In Wisdom's Path*

**\*\*Gateway to Worship** is our worship program for 4-year-olds through  
second 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.*

## 5 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

Come forward with your Offering during the final hymn. You are asked to  
consider giving 5 cents for each meal you have eaten last month (or any  
amount you wish) to help feed those who are hungry. This offering supports  
both local and global hunger programs.

## MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION—TODAY!

*Please see your insert for details!*

**This morning we again welcome the Rev. Daniel Kreiss to the pulpit.** Dan has served as the director of the Youth Ministry degree and the Dean of the Peeke School of Christian mission at King University from January 2005 – May 2019. He was ordained in the Holston Presbytery in March of 2018 after completing his M Div at Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan College. He is currently completing his D Min at Portland Seminary in Leadership in Global Perspectives and anticipates graduating in May 2020. Dan is the father of 4 amazing children and the husband of Cindy for nearly 30 years. They currently reside in Bristol, TN, but with the completion of his time at King are open to see what God has in store for this next season of their lives.

### THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

The **DECEMBER COURIER** is on the table in the Narthex. If you did not receive one via e-mail, please be sure to take one off the table today as not all of the announcements about upcoming events are in this bulletin. **You'll also find the newsletter and calendar on the church website: [www.cpcjc.org](http://www.cpcjc.org).**

### MESSAGES FROM THE ADMIN & BUDGET COMMITTEE

We would like to thank everyone who turned in a **pledge card for 2020**. It is from your pledges that the Admin & Budget Committee and Session are able to develop our budget for the coming year. Our budget is more than numbers on a page, it is a mission document that states clearly what we plan to accomplish and who we, at Covenant, pledge to be in the year to come. Help us to continue doing the works of love and mercy in which we are currently involved. Help us to go further in expanding our work here and beyond. Help us to look to the future with the confidence to dream big for what God can do in and through Covenant Presbyterian Church. We're in this work together!

It is very important that we receive your pledge information soon to be able to complete the process of developing the budget for 2020. Pledge cards and envelopes can be found in the pews or on the table in the Narthex. You are invited to place your pledge card in the offering plate this morning, or you can bring it by the church office. (Remember that as year-end approaches, your tithes and offerings will be credited to your **2019 Statement of Giving if made before December 31<sup>st</sup>**. If you have questions, please contact Gary Smith or the church office.) Thank you for your commitment and generosity in all that we do together at Covenant.

Each year we are given the opportunity to provide monetary gifts to the **Elders Fund**, the majority of which is used for Christmas honoraria for the people on our fine staff. Their names and positions are listed in each Sunday's bulletin. Our congregation has always been very generous in providing donations to the fund. Our members are appreciative of the dedication of our staff members, and this is a wonderful opportunity to show that appreciation. We ask that each member consider making their donations as generous as possible and, since it would be helpful for the staff to have their gifts well before Christmas, to make their donations **by December 15**. Just mark "Elders Fund" on your checks and place in the offering plate or send to the church office. We know we can count on our membership, as we always have. Thanks so much.

Covenant Presbyterian Church has been certified as a **Recovery Congregation** by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



## ONLINE GIVING!

Online Giving is available through our website at [cpcjc.org](http://cpcjc.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.*

### NAME TAGS

Please wear your name tag 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!**

### TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Jim Starr
Liturgy prepared and arranged by:	the Rev. Pat Willard
Liturgist:	David Miller
Section Leader:	Shawn Hale
Soloist:	Liz Dollar
Nursery:	Knechtel
Gateway:	Madden

### CHURCH STAFF

Music Director:	Jessica Siple
Office Administrator:	Tina Simon
Administrative Assistant:	Anne Webb
Custodian:	Marie Britt
Nursery Worker:	Jeanne Gamble

### PRAYER CONCERNS

#### Week of December 1—7, 2019.

CB Willis, who is looking forward to returning home on December 4!  
Liz Kuehling, Lauri Zembower's mother in Colorado, whose back surgery went well last Monday.  
Steve Jones, a dear friend of Sharon Fuhrman, who has been diagnosed with kidney cancer.  
Bob & Betty Thompson, Phyllis' parents.  
Michael & Karen, missionaries who are stationed in Afghanistan.

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

Vi Block, Jeter Collins, Lattie Collins, Mary Derouen,  
Helen Fletcher, Glay Hood, Barbara Quisenberry

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

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan † Jon & Kathy Christiansen: Zimbabwe  
***and Ministries of the Presbytery:***

UKirk ETSU (Pres. Campus Ministry) † Holston Presbytery Camp



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).

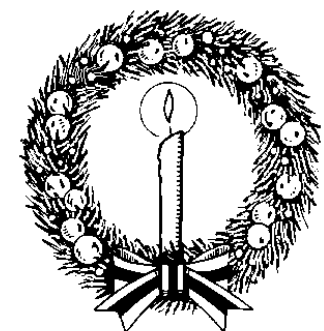
### MISSION STATEMENT

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

## DECEMBER 1, 2019



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
in Advent**

in the cave of our hearts

in the fabric of our lives

in the soul of our earth

**you continue, O God, to be born!**

## MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION – TODAY

There will be a **Meeting of the Congregation** immediately following worship for the purpose of electing four officers for the class of 2022 and one to serve out the remainder of the 2020 term left open by Jon Fales when he and Shaunda move to Texas. The following are the nominees being presented by the Nominating Committee:

**Tony Madden:** A native of Rome, Georgia, Tony has lived in Johnson City with his lovely wife Eileen since 2004. They have two adult children, Sean and Grace, and an old dog named Moose. Tony's faith journey began in childhood as a member of Second Avenue Baptist Church in Rome, Georgia. Having been born into the Baptist faith, by the grace of God, Tony became a Presbyterian shortly after marrying Eileen more than 28 years ago. Having previously served on the Session at Covenant in the class of 2009, he is an active member of the Local and World Missions committee. Tony is a Navy veteran and a project engineer currently working for A.O. Smith Corporation in Johnson City. An avid runner, Tony completed his first ultra-marathon (30 miles) this past August.

**Betsy Moakler:** Betsy grew up in the area and graduated from Science Hill High School. She doesn't have a dramatic faith story as she has been a Christian for as long as she can remember. Her parents were faithful church goers (Methodist) and she accepted Jesus into her heart as a little girl. However, regular church attendance stopped after high school and didn't resume until her first child was born. She wanted to raise her children in church. Having faith in God and Jesus Christ is the most important aspect of life. Betsy and her husband Rich have been married twenty-nine years and have two grown children. They have lived in Washington, DC; Ithaca, NY; and Tucson, AZ before moving back home to Johnson City in 2003.

**Anne Smith:** Anne was raised in Columbia, TN and has been a life-long Presbyterian. She has an MA in Latin American History and has taught in junior high, high school and in college. She is married to Gary Smith and has two sons – Andy and Lee – and four grandchildren – Austin, Mason, Brian and Juli. Her mother, Carlene Adams, also attends Covenant Church. Anne enjoys music, traveling and crafts. This will be her 3<sup>rd</sup> term on the Session.

**David Wood:** Dr. David is a Professor and past Chair of the Department of Pediatrics in the Quillen College of Medicine at ETSU. He specializes in the care of adolescents and young adults. He has been married to Julie, who is a public health nurse, for 31 years. They have 3 lovely adult children and 5 grandchildren. They love to do CrossFit 3-4 mornings per week and travel to see their children and see the world. David grew up in the Evangelical Covenant Church of America. He is now a recovering evangelical, but still loves Jesus as best he can. He is particularly interested in the contemplative tradition in Christianity.

**Gwen Hunter:** Gwen grew up in a western suburb of Cleveland, Ohio and was raised in the Methodist Church. As newlyweds Hal and Gwen moved to Johnson City in 1975 and joined Covenant shortly thereafter. She was ordained an Elder in 1985. Hal and Gwen have one child, Lynnea, who added son-in-law David, and granddaughter, Camryn to the family last December. Instant grandma is great! Over her time at Covenant she has served on many committees and currently chairs Outreach committee. Gwen enjoys singing in the choir, attending Sunday School, and Red Tent Circle. She is retired after a career in sales and management with a temporary help agency and American Red Cross blood services. Gwen's favorite part of the ordination vows is promising "to serve the people with imagination."

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

**Have you heard** the sound of beautiful music filling the halls of Covenant? Our choral department is working hard to support our Sunday services with anthems that will sing in your heart throughout the week--anthems of joy, anthems of hope, anthems of the sustaining love of the Creator.

**Have you heard** that we are now learning a **Christmas Cantata** to be presented on **December 15** at our 11:00 am service? In this Cantata, composed by Joel Raney, the texts of familiar Christmas carols are set to beloved Irish and Welch folk tunes. From its ethereal beginning to its stirring conclusion, you will not want to miss this imaginative and inspiring work!

**Have you heard** that all are welcome at Covenant Presbyterian Church and we are inviting all our neighbors and families to hear our musical offering? Make a list, invite everyone you know, plan to attend this beautiful Cantata! You'll be glad you did!

## THE LUNCH BUNCH

The next gathering of "The Lunch Bunch" will be on **Wednesday, December 4, at 12:30 PM at Gourmet & Co., 214 E. Mountcastle Drive. Contact Victory Cooper at 282-4641 ASAP** to let her know if you plan to come so she can make the appropriate number of reservations.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Join us for this special service on **Tuesday, December 24**. There will be a time of **refreshments at 4:45 PM**, with the **service starting at 5:30 PM**.

## GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Everyone is invited to join us from **9 - Noon on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** as we finish decorating the church for the Advent Season.

## AFTER CHURCH LUNCH – DECEMBER 8

The theme for our December 8<sup>th</sup> After Church Lunch is "**Your Favorite Holiday Food**". We all have family favorites that make our holiday memories special. Won't you bring one of those dishes to share with your church family? Maybe it'll be ham, sweet potato casserole, Stollen, cheese straws, collard greens, divinity, green bean casserole, fruitcake, cookies? It'll be fun to find out what is special to you at your own Christmas table.

## JEWELRY SALE FOR THE RIVER: SUNDAY, DEC. 8

*The River provides women in poverty both a safe place to meet basic needs on a daily basis and additional support programs that educate and empower women for independent living while sharing loads of God's love.*

Kick off your holiday celebrations at **Cynthia Erdei's Bi-Annual Jewelry Sale next Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 5 PM** (2503 Wynn Drive, J.C., 469-233-6469). There will be goodies, laughter, friends to visit, and lots of necklaces and earrings to pick from. This is a great way to start your gift buying, whether for friends or family - or for yourself! As before, all profits go to The River Ministry, where women help women help themselves.

## ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY!

**LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER THE BIRTH OF JESUS!**

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 4 PM**

*(or when we finish the White Elephant Gift Exchange)*

at the home of Dave and Julie Wood

179 Glass Road, J.C, 37615

**Food, Fellowship, Singing Carols, Storytelling by Ed Wolff, and the afore-mentioned White Elephant Gift Exchange.**

*(Bring a wrapped gift of \$0 - \$10 for the exchange, one per person. Couples may participate as a duo or individually.)*

### POTLUCK:

Dave & Julie will provide a ham and drinks.

Please bring any other favorite dishes and/or desserts.

**RSVP by Wed., Dec. 11** [woodfamily5@bellsouth.net](mailto:woodfamily5@bellsouth.net)

Questions? Call Julie at 904 891-1922.

Please offer rides to those who don't drive and please carpool!

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, Dec. 1

**DEADLINE: Angel Tree Gifts**

9:30a – 9:55a

9:45a/10:00a

9:45a/10:00a

11:00a

**Following worship**

12:30p

**3:00p – 5:00p**

7:00p

Monday, Dec. 2

**10:00a**

5:30p

7:00p

Tuesday, Dec. 3

9:00a

**2:00p – 4:00p**

7:00p

7:00p

Wednesday, Dec. 4

**12:30p**

6:00p

6:30p

7:00p

Thursday, Dec. 5

**8:00a**

Noon

5:30p

Friday, Dec. 6

Noon

1:30p

6:30p

Saturday, Dec. 7

**9:00a – Noon**

9:00a

10:00a

Weekly Prayer Group

Sunday School

Chancel Choir/Ensemble Practice

Worship Service

**Meeting of the Congregation**

Chancel Choir

**Armchair Travelers**

N.A. Meeting

**Melting Pot**

Christian Ed Committee Meeting

NarAnon Meeting

Presbytery Meeting at Rogersville Pres.

**Games in the Library**

Property Committee Meeting

Al-Anon Meeting

**The Lunch Bunch at Gourmet & Co.**

Handbell Practice

Chancel Choir

N.A. Meeting

**Men's Bible Study**

Al-Anon Meeting

Cub Scouts

CoDA Meeting

N.A. Meeting

Al-Anon Meeting

**Greening of the Church**

Garden Club (Fellowship Hall)

Chancel Choir