

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

### SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

**PRELUDE**                      *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*                      Cynthia Dobrinsky

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

I was glad when they said unto me,  
**Let us go into the house of the Lord.**  
On this first Sunday of Advent  
**we come to wait;**  
not passively waiting, as in,  
**sitting quietly to see what will happen;**  
but actively waiting, as in,  
**with anticipation and expectation,**  
praising, singing, praying, listening for the word,  
**knowing that God is about to break into our world,**  
that God will do a new thing once again.  
**It happens every year and yet,**  
**it is always new, always exciting.**  
And so we eagerly wait for the birth of the Christ Child,  
**our hope for the present and for the future.**  
**Come and worship! Come and wait!**

### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days when 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. [Isa. 2:4]

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

*(The candle is lit.)*

**HYMN # 92 (vs. 1)**    *"While We Are Waiting, Come"*

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

### GREETING

Advent means coming. Christ is coming.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 106**    *"Prepare the Way, O Zion"*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
**Where there is hatred, let me sow love;**  
**where there is injury, pardon;**  
**where there is doubt, faith;**  
**where there is despair, hope;**  
**where there is darkness, light;**  
**where there is sadness, joy.**  
**O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much**  
**to be consoled as to console,**  
**to be understood as to understand,**  
**to be loved as to love.**  
**For it is in giving that we receive,**  
**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,**  
**and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news.  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 82 v. 1** *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

### \*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

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *(pg. 738—OT)*    Jeremiah 33:14-16

**GOSPEL READING** *(pg. 85—NT)*    Luke 21:25-36

**SERMON**      New Season, Renewed Expectations      Rev. Paul Helphinstine

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**\*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 357**    *"The Days Are Surely Coming"*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**    The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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.**

#### OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**    *"Every Valley"*    John Ness Beck

**\*DOXOLOGY # 606**    *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him 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

#### Prayer after Communion

### GOING OUT TO SERVE

**\*HYMN OF SENDING # 113**    *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### \*POSTLUDE

---

\*For those who are able, please stand.

NOTES: 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.*

### 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.

## 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).**

### INVITATION TO AN OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, December 8 from 6—9 PM

To show our appreciation of your support for the BABMOC elementary school in Liberia, **Bear Another's Burdens Ministry of Christ (BABMOC)** would like to invite all our Covenant Brothers and Sisters to a **Christmas Open House**. It will be held at the home of Matt & Kathi Cary, 601 Douglas Drive on Saturday, December 8 from 6-9 PM.

### THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, Dec. 2

9:30a – 9:55a

10:00a

11:00a

following worship service:

12:30p

3:00—5:00p

7:00p

Monday, Dec. 3

8:30a

10:30a

7:00p

Tuesday, Dec. 4

8:30a

5:30p

6:30p

7:00p

7:00p

Wednesday, Dec. 5

11:30a

6:00p

6:30p

7:00p

7:00p

Thursday, Dec. 6

8:00a

Noon

Noon—4:00p

2:00p – 4:00p

Friday, Dec. 7

Noon

1:30p

Saturday, Dec. 8

9:00a

12:30p

6:00—9:00p

Weekly Prayer Group  
Sunday School  
Worship Service  
**Greening of the Church**  
Mission Committee Meeting  
**Armchair Travelers**  
N.A. Meeting

N.A. Meeting  
**Melting Pot**  
NarAnon Meeting

N.A. Meeting  
Outreach Committee Meeting  
Cub Scouts  
Property Committee Meeting  
Al-Anon Meeting

**The Lunch Bunch at Wellington's**  
**GROW**  
SAFG  
Chancel Choir  
N.A. Meeting

Men's Bible Study  
Al-Anon Meeting  
Fellowship Hall reserved  
**Bridge & Games in the Library**

CoDA Meeting  
N.A. Meeting

LEAD Meeting  
CCL Meeting

**BABMOC Open House at the Cary's**

### 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!**

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:  
Guest Director:  
Nursery:

Jim Starr  
the Rev. Pat Willard  
Kathy Cary  
Brandon Guffey  
Jane Deaton

Covenant Bells

### 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 December 2—8, 2018.

CB Willis, who is at NHC for rehab.  
Bob Hart, who has been ill and is asking for prayer to regain his energy.  
Kendall Harris, who has been diagnosed with a second malignant clone of blood cells. He will have another evaluation at the Mayo Clinic.  
Mary Lynn Moser, BJ King's sister, whose latest tests show no new brain lesions.  
Lori Simon, Tina's sister, whose latest scan showed new brain tumors. Lori will have gamma knife surgery again very soon.

*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

*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

DECEMBER 2, 2018  
1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Advent*  
**A Season of Hope  
& Expectation**

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Faithful God,  
your promises stand unshaken through all generations.  
Renew us in hope,  
that we may be awake and alert  
as we watch for the glorious coming, in this season,  
of Jesus Christ, our Savior,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.