

## 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

Sing praises to God with gratitude and joy.  
Let heaven and earth praise God!  
Dwell in Christ’s word of wisdom and truth.  
Praise Christ for the path of life!  
Come and worship! Come and worship!  
Worship Christ the new-born king!

#### \*OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 4   *“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful Christ,  
you call us to clothe ourselves in love,  
walk in your truth,  
and grow in God’s wisdom.  
But these garments are often awkward,  
your path sometimes rocky,  
and this growth not always comfortable.  
Forgive us when we seek our own comfort  
rather than your more difficult road.  
Forgive us when we prefer comfy old shoes  
to the new footwear you offer us  
to follow more challenging paths.  
Clothe us in your truth and bind us to your love.  
Weave us with the threads of your grace,  
that we may be cloaks of blessing---  
woven in kindness and compassion,  
mercy and patience---  
for those who need protection and love.  
Weave us with the threads of your mercy,  
that we may be a community of faith and wisdom,  
reaching out to those who yearn  
to walk in your ways.  
In your holy name we pray. Amen.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the promise of Christmas:  
Christ has come with mercy and grace!  
Christ walks with us even now.  
Rejoice, my friends, in Christ we are all forgiven!  
Thanks be to God.

#### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 169, v. 1 “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

#### 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.**

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING (p. 201—NT)   Colossians 3:12-17

GOSPEL READING (p. 59—NT)   Luke 2:41-52

SERMON   Learning to Live   Rev. Edward Wolff

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 110   *“Love Has Come”*

\*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.

#### GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offering

Offertory

\*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

### GOING OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN OF SENDING # 136   *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*

\*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.

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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.*

**This morning we welcome the Rev. Edward Wolff to the pulpit.**

Paul will be out of town from **December 30—January 4**. Please call the church office at 282-5324 if you have an emergency.

The Church office will be closed on **Tuesday, January 1**.

**Un-Greening of the Church** will take place following worship on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

### 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.

### NEWSLETTER

The **JANUARY COURIER** is on the table in the Narthex. Please be sure to read it! You will also find the newsletter and January’s calendar on our website: [www.cpcjc.org](http://www.cpcjc.org).

### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Last week we received the **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**. This offering supports the education of students at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges and helps families of active and retired church workers in need through the assistance programs of the Board of Pensions. There is still time to give. Please give generously.

### NOTES ABOUT YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Here are just a few reminders as you consider your year-end contributions to the church.

**If possible**, please consider fulfilling your **“2018” Pledge**. To those who have made your 2019 Pledge, **thank you** for supporting the church and its mission. **If you are planning on giving a contribution of stock**, please have a broker statement in the Church Office no later than December 31, 2018, for the gift to be included as a “2018” contribution.

**All donations must be delivered or mailed (and postmarked) on or before December 31, 2018 in order to receive a charitable tax donation for “2018”**. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2019 will not qualify for a charitable tax contribution deduction in 2018. However, checks that are written, mailed and postmarked in “2018” will be deductible in 2018 even if not received by the church until 2019.

Thank you for your generous gifts to the church.

## ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS—JANUARY 6 FROM 3—5 PM

Join us in the Library on the first Sunday of the month from 3—5 PM as we travel to faraway places from the comfort of our armchairs or the sofa! This month we visit Turkey with Rick Steves' Travelog. Bring a light snack to share.

## THE LUNCH BUNCH IN JANUARY

The next gathering of "The Lunch Bunch" will be on **Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 11:30 AM. at Johnny Brusco's, 2111 N. Roan St. On Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at 11:30 AM at Moto's Japanese Restaurant, 2607 N. Roan St. Contact Victory Cooper at 282-4641 for more information and to let her know if you plan to come so she can make the appropriate number of reservations.**

## 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.*



**Members & Regular Visitors:** Your **2019 Offering Envelopes** are on the table in the Narthex. If you would like a box of envelopes for 2019, but don't see your name, please call or e-mail Tina in the church office! *(Several of you have told me that you don't need envelopes this year. If they are on the table, I apologize. Please mark an "X" through your name and I will remove them. Thanks, Tina.)*



## 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!

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR THE WINTER SEASON

**Monday: 1:00p – 4:00p, Tuesday – Thursday: 9:00a – 4:00p**

**The office is closed on Friday.**

Messages may be left on the church voicemail at any time, 423-282-5324. Press "2" to leave a message for Tina; press "1" for Paul.



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.



## TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:  
Liturgy written by:  
Liturgist:  
Nursery:

Jim Starr  
the Rev. Pat Willard  
Frankie Wolff  
David/Sharon Miller

## 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 Dec. 30, 2018—Jan. 5, 2019.

Charlan Freundl, Stacy Larsen's mother, who was just diagnosed with ALS.  
Vi Block, who has been in rehab for blood clots in her legs.  
Carrie Beth Swanay, Betsy Moakler's cousin, whose cancer is spreading. At only 55 years old, she has had to retire from her position as a professor at Milligan.  
Ivy Finn, 2-mo. old daughter of friends of Dave & Julie Wood, who has a severe heart condition and has had 3 surgeries so far.  
Bob Hart, who has been ill and is asking for prayer to regain his energy.  
Kendall Harris, who is undergoing treatment for his blood condition.  
Lori Simon, Tina's sister, who has pneumonia.

***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

## 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](mailto:office@cpcjc.org) ♦ [www.cpcjc.org](http://www.cpcjc.org)  
Facebook: "Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)"  
Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

**DECEMBER 30, 2018**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY**



## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Almighty God,  
you wonderfully created,  
and yet more wonderfully restored,  
the dignity of human nature.

In your mercy,  
let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ  
who came to share our humanity,  
and who now lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

**THIS WEEK AT COVENANT**

Today, Dec. 30

**9:30a – 9:55a**

**Weekly Prayer Group**

10:00a

Sunday School

11:00a

Worship Service

7:00p

N.A. Meeting

Monday, Dec. 31 – New Year’s Eve

8:30a

N.A. Meeting

7:00p

NarAnon Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 1 – New Year’s Day

**Church Office Closed**

8:30a

N.A. Meeting

7:00p

Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 2

6:30p

SAFG

7:00p

N.A. Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 3

**8:00a**

**Men’s Bible Study this week**

Noon

Al-Anon Meeting

**2:00p – 4:00p**

**Bridge & Games in the Library**

Friday, Jan. 4

Noon

CoDA Meeting

1:30p

N.A. Meeting