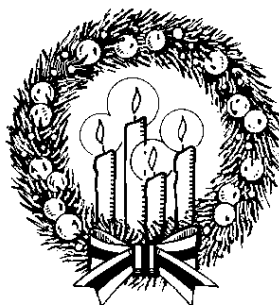


# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
in Advent*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

**HYMN # 82**

*“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.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

2 Samuel 7:1-11

**READING FROM THE PSALMS**

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Romans 16:25-27

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”*

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 1:26-38

**SERMON**

God Is Still Building

Rev. Daniel Kreiss

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### CLOSING HYMN # 546

*“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”*

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;  
may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us, from our struggling pilgrim way,  
let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

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**This morning we again welcome the Rev. Daniel Kreiss to the virtual pulpit.** Dan, along with his wife Cindy, has given his career to Christian ministry in a variety of contexts, both internationally and domestically. Dan just accepted a call to be the Associate Pastor for Mission Outreach at Roswell Presbyterian church in Atlanta and will begin in the new year.

**First ever Drive-In Caroling this evening, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 6 PM in the parking lot!** Drive up and tune in to sing Christmas carols along with others, socially distanced in our cars. Song sheets and where to find us on the FM dial will be provided when you arrive!!

There will be a brief **Zoom Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 20th at 10:00 AM** for the purpose of electing Ruling Elders. The Sunday School classes will meet immediately after the Congregational Meeting. (Zoom invitations have been sent by email.)

### **The nominees for Elders are:**

**Gwen Hunter and Don Coble.** Don and Gwen are currently serving as Ruling Elders and would be extending their time on Session for one year (in alignment with Presbytery's new Covid-19 policy adjustment for elections).

**Kathi Cary and Lauri Zembower** are nominated for full 3-year terms as Ruling Elders. Here are their bios:

**Kathi Cary:** Kathi (Kathleen) was born in Denver, CO, and raised in Parker, CO. She married her high school sweetheart, Matthew Cary, in 1988. Together they have raised three boys, John (27), Jimmy (25) and Joseph (23). Kathi grew up in the Methodist Church (her sister is a UMC pastor in Arlington Heights, IL). She became a Presbyterian when she and Matt moved to Johnson City in 1996 and joined Covenant.

Kathi has a B.A. in History, a Master of Arts in Teaching, and a paralegal certificate. She currently works part-time at Mountain States Title Company as a mortgage processor. She has served Covenant on the Worship and Christian Education Committees, organized Vacation Bible School, taught Sunday School (from toddlers to teens), and organized Advent and Lenten family activities. During her free time, Kathi enjoys ballroom dancing, reading, gardening, and watching Law and Order reruns.

**Lauri Zembower:** A lifelong Presbyterian, Lauri was born and grew up in the small mountain town of Ouray, Colorado. She attended Butler University in Indianapolis, graduating with a degree in Accounting and French. She's worked in various Finance roles at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield for the past sixteen years, starting at their Indianapolis headquarters and transitioning to a full-time work at home position in 2007 after moving to Johnson City. Lauri married husband, Christian, in 2006, the same year he took a job at ETSU, which is what brought them to this area. During her free time, Lauri enjoys hiking, traveling and photography. Lauri appreciates the tradition and structure of the PC(USA) and is looking forward to helping the congregation through this transitional period as we look towards the future.

### **TODAY AT COVENANT:**

In the Pulpit:	Rev. Daniel Kreiss
Organ/piano:	Jessica Siple, Music Director
Liturgist:	Liz Dollar
Euphonium:	Christian Zembower

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**Covenant**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

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)"