

# Covenant Presbyterian Church

Sunday, eleven o'clock                      3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter                      April 26, 2009

Ritual of Friendship and Congregational Opportunities

*(Let us 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

#### Prelude

*"Eastertide"*

Charles Villiers Stanford

#### \*Call to Worship

based on Psalms 4 & 30

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, O you faithful ones,  
And give thanks to God's holy name.

**People: Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!  
You have put gladness in our heart.**

Leader: You have turned our mourning into dancing;  
You have taken off our sackcloth and clothed us with joy.

**People: Let our souls praise you and not be silent.  
O Lord, our God, we will give thanks to you forever.**

#### \*Prayer for the Day

#### \*Hymn of Praise # 144

*"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!"*

#### \*Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you call us to repentance and forgiveness  
through the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ:  
Help us to hear your call with the eagerness of the disciples;  
turn us away from all distractions that keep us from seeing Jesus and knowing who he is;  
forgive us when we neglect to study the scriptures and fail to seek your word of life;  
forgive us when we do not respond to your call to feed your sheep.**

**Help us to live as your beloved children now, and clothe us with joy.  
In the name of Jesus, the holy and righteous One. Amen.**

#### \*Assurance of Pardon

#### \*Congregational Response # 106 (refrain)

*"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"*

## Hearing the Word of God

#### Prayer for Illumination

Reading from the Psalms pg. 490

Psalm 4

#### Anthem

*"Children of the Heavenly Father"*

arr.: Robert Scholz

Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird or star in heaven such a refuge ne'er was given.  
God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.  
Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;  
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.  
Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
his loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

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#### Children's Moments

*\*\*Gateway to Worship*

#### \*Hymn of Preparation # 372

*"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"*

*The following groups will sing the first phrase of each stanza, then congregation joins in.*

Stanza 1--Youth and children

Stanza 2--All men

Stanza 3--All women

Stanza 4--To be sung by all

#### Gospel Reading pg. 91

Luke 24:36b-48

#### Sermon

Can it be True?

Cheryl Rice

## Responding Faithfully to God's Word

#### \*Affirmation of Faith (pg. 14 – Traditional Version)

The Apostles' Creed

#### Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

#### Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

#### Offertory

*"Cantabile"*

Frederic Chopin

#### \*Doxology # 375, stanza 1

*"Lord of All Good"*

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to You; Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill; Tokens of  
love and pledges brought anew, That our whole life is offered to Your will.

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#### \*Prayer of Dedication

## Going Out to Serve

#### \*Hymn of Consecration # 2

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

#### \*Benediction

**\*Sending Response** (Congregation & Choir)      *“Christ Is Alive”*      Truro  
Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes  
with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.  
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**\*Postlude**      *“Christ Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”*      J. S. Bach  
*(For some, the Postlude serves as festive music to accompany their going back out into  
the world. Others prefer to remain seated and listen. Those departing can help those  
who listen by holding their joyful greeting of others until they reach the narthex.)*

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\*For those who are able, please stand.

**\*\*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 Children’s Moments.

**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 after worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments.*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God  
and in honor of Dot Carpenter’s birthday by Dana & Diana Hewitt.*

This morning we welcome Cheryl Rice to the pulpit.

**ConneX** – Join us **tonight at 6:00 p.m.** for a new worship experience. Come to connect with God and  
to connect with others. Come to worship the God we serve. Come and be filled. The service will be  
followed by a light dinner. (Childcare will be provided.)

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated next Sunday. Take time this week to prepare  
yourself in prayer and meditation.

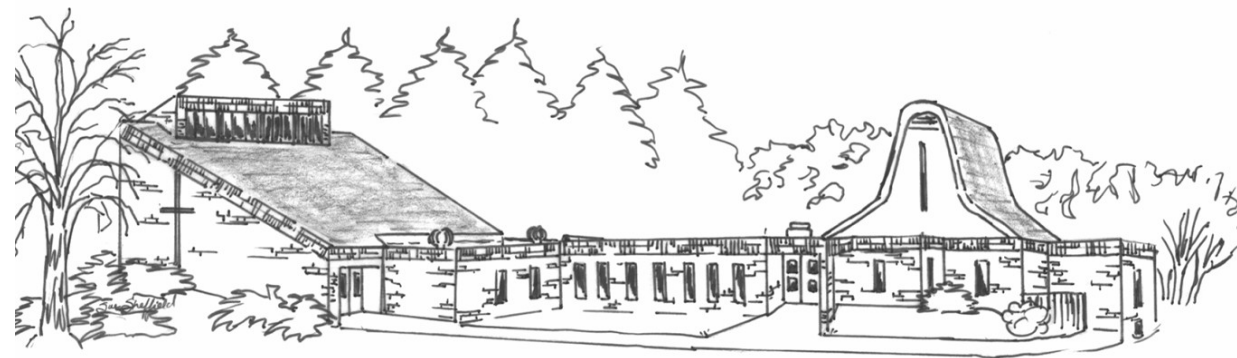
**Today at Covenant**

|                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Morning Greeter:  | Jim Starr                     |
| Organist:         | Dr. David Runner              |
| Acolytes:         | Mark Jones & Sean Madden      |
| Gateway:          | Steve Hopkins                 |
| Nursery:          | Kathi Cary                    |
| Coffee Hostesses: | Melissa Hopkins & Evelyn Kemp |

**Church Staff:**

Pastor: Rev. Sharon H. Amstutz, [cpcjctn\\_pastor@mounet.com](mailto:cpcjctn_pastor@mounet.com)  
Minister to Youth & College: Matthew Sweeney, [cpcjctn\\_youth@mounet.com](mailto:cpcjctn_youth@mounet.com)  
Choir Director: Randy Adams, [cpcjctn\\_music@mounet.com](mailto:cpcjctn_music@mounet.com)  
Pianist: Amy Jones  
Secretary: Tina Simon, [cpcjctn@mounet.com](mailto:cpcjctn@mounet.com)  
Nursery: Jeanne Gamble  
Custodian: Marie Britt

“Lord, in the full assembly  
I will praise you for what you have done.”  
Psalm 22:25



## Covenant Presbyterian Church

603 Sunset Drive  
Johnson City, TN 37604  
Phone: (423) 282-5324; fax: (423) 282-5346  
[www.covenantpresjc.org](http://www.covenantpresjc.org)  
E-mail: [cpcjctn@mounet.com](mailto:cpcjctn@mounet.com)