

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 “May Jesus Christ Be Praised” arr.: M. Sherrill Kelsey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Good Christian friends, rejoice!
Today your Lord comes
in love and power,
in grace and truth,
offering hope and peace.

People: **Christ is born! Alleluia!**

Leader: This promised one,
mighty, though small,
is our hope, our strength, and our life.

People: **Christ is born to save! Alleluia!**

Leader: In hope, let us worship God. Alleluia! Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 28 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, you sent a star
to guide the Magi to the child Jesus.
We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word.
We have not searched for signs of your love in the world
or trusted your good news to be good.
We have failed to praise your Son’s birth
and refused his peace on earth.
We have expected little
and hoped for less.
Forgive our doubt
and renew in us all fine desires,
that we may watch and wait
and once more hear the glad story of our Savior,
Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 31 (v. 3) “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

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HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING pg. 690

Isaiah 60:1-6

ANTHEM “A Babe Is Born” 25th Century English Carol

Setting by Paul Bouman

A Babe is born all of amay, to bring salvation unto us, To Him we sing both
night and day: Veni Creator Spiritus.(Co me, Creator Spirit.) At Bethlehem that
Blessed place, the Child of bliss now born He was; and Him to serve God give
us grace, O Lux beata, Trinitas. (O Trinity, most blessed light.) There came three
kings of the East to worship the King that is so free, with gold and myrrh and
frankincense, A solis ortus cardine. (Risen from the quarter of the sun.) The
shepherds heard an angel's cry, A merry song that night sung he. Oh, why are ye
so sore aghast? Jam ortus solis cardine. (Already the rising of the sun from its
directions).

The angels came down with one cry, a fair song they sung that night sung they in
the worship of that child. Gloria tibi Domine! (Glory to Thee, O Lord!)

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CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

**Gateway to Worship

GOSPEL READING pg. 2 Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON Reactions and Responses Andy Irvin

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH based on Philippians 2:6-11

**I believe the Word was in the form of God
and did not count equality with God
a thing to be grasped.**

**He emptied himself,
took the form of a servant,
and was born in our own likeness.**

**I believe he humbled himself
and became obedient unto death.**

**I believe God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
that is above every name.**

**I believe that at the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth.**

**I believe that every tongue will confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

*COMMUNION HYMN # 31 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Offering

Offertory “How Great Thou Art” arr.: Dino Kartsonakis

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**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.**

Words of Institution
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*COMMITMENT HYMN # 327 “O Word of God Incarnate”

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING RESPONSE # 29 (refrain) “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born!

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*POSTLUDE “My Tribute” arr.: Dino Kartsonakis

*(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.)*

*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.

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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 after worship
for a time of fellowship and refreshments.*

This morning we welcome **Jennifer Palmer** at the piano. Jennifer is a graduate of
ETSU with a Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance and, most recently, the State
University of New York at Stony Brook with a Master of Arts degree in Music
History and Theory. She holds numerous prizes and awards in piano performance,
but her real passion is found in teaching. While in New York, she was a member
of the faculty of the Pre-College Division of the Department of Music, where she
served as the vocal coach and accompanist, and worked with chamber pianists.
Most recently, Jennifer has been named as an adjunct faculty member of the
Department of Music at ETSU, where she will begin in January. She is happy to
have this opportunity to worship with you this morning.

There will be a **Parent Meeting on Wednesday January 6th at 7:00** for all those
interested in going on the Youth Mission Trip. This will take place in the
Fellowship Hall immediately following WNL. The trip will be the week of June
13 until June 18, 2010. The meeting should last 15-30 minutes.

The Mitten Tree is in the hallway across from the church office! Please bring
hats, scarves and mittens for children in our area who need a little warmth.

The **Tuesday morning Ladies’ Bible Study** will resume on January 12th. We
meet in the church library at 10:00 a.m. Please join us!

Friendship Circle will meet on **Tuesday, January 12th at 7:30p.** Hostess: Rose
Willis. 2734 E. Oakland Ave., #C-24, J.C., 282-3325. To carpool, meet at the
church at 7:10p.

Please join us for the **2010 Annual Senior Travelers’ Brunch** in the Fellowship
Hall on **Friday, January 15th at 9:00 a.m.** Only \$3/each. Great breakfast,
Christian fellowship, fun time. Sign up in the Narthex. Be there, please!

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held as a **Church Night Potluck Supper at 6:00p on Sunday, January 24th**. Highlights of 2009 will be reviewed, the 2010 budget will be presented, and we will elect members of the church Nominating Committee as well as officers of the corporation. Please plan to attend! It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about what's happening at Covenant.

With the new year comes the need for ushers and for elders to volunteer to serve communion. New calendars for the coming year are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please use them to let us know when you will be available to help out. Many thanks.

The **2010 Flower Chart** is on the bulletin board in the hall outside the sanctuary. Please sign up if you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary to honor or remember someone or a special occasion. Ordering instructions are posted next to the calendar.

Stewardship envelopes for 2010 are on the table in the Narthex. Please take yours. If you do not find a box of envelopes, but wish to have one, please leave a note in the Church office or send Tina an e-mail.

Reminder to Committee Chairs: 2009 Committee Reports for the Annual Report need to be e-mailed to Tina before January 11th, 2010. Thank you!

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I want to thank the congregation at Covenant for the gifts I received before I left. Words can't begin to express how much I will miss you all and how blessed I have felt to serve as your pianist. It was a wonderful opportunity and I enjoyed it immensely. I will send postcards and snowy pictures! Love, Amy G. Jones

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Dr. Al Staggs will give audiences a unique view during the **Theologian-in-Residence** program at Tusculum College into various aspects of theology from the legacy of Dr. Dietrich Bonhoeffer to the role of laughter in life **each Tuesday in February from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.** Lunch is included.

Dr. Staggs served 24 years as a Baptist minister before turning his energies full-time to his real passions related to performing and working for peace and justice. As a performance artist he enjoys bringing joy through laughter in his programs which will include:

- Ø *A View from the Underside: The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* – a one-person play taking you inside the prison cell where Bonhoeffer awaits execution and shares his struggles with evil, injustice and God.
- Ø *Clarence Jordan and the God Movement* – Jordan's life and theology were a radical embodiment of Jesus' teachings especially using the Sermon on the Mount.
- Ø *Laughter for Life* – Staggs as 30 or more characters demonstrating the importance of humor in aiding spiritual, emotion and physical health.
- Ø *William Sloane Coffin: A Priestly Prophet* – Coffin was a social activist who became a leader in the Civil Rights and peace movements of the 60's & 70's.

Contact **Angie Dean** at **1.800.729.0256** or **423.636.7319** for more information and circle **February 2, 9, 16 & 23** on your calendars to be at Tusculum College.

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

Steve Bader, John Merriss, Rod Irvin (Andy's father), the Dulin family, Elva McCart, Roger Hecht, Peter Block, Pat Adams, Will Favre (friend of David Wood & Phyllis Thompson) and family in the death of Will's dad, Marvin Parker (Evelyn Kemp's cousin), Bob Hunter (Hal's brother), Christian James Ward (baby of friend of Sue Crandall), George Gardner (the Willis' brother-in-law), Lane Johnson (CB Willis' cousin), Harriette Carr, Ed & Marie Britt, Bill Bader (Steve's brother), Stephanie Muncie (friend of Hines family), Shelly Thornton (Gwen Hunter's cousin's 4-year old granddaughter), Corrine Broyles, Julia Trifiletti, Aneita Carr, Agnes Plank, Helene Herbert

If you know of other reasons for rejoicing or concerns you would like to share with others please complete a prayer card with your requests.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Jim Starr	Acolytes:	Linden Hillhouse
Liturgist:	John Cary		Grace Madden
Pianist:	Jennifer Palmer	Gateway:	Rosemary Whitson
Soloist:	Dan Pope	Nursery:	Joel Hillhouse
Chimer:	Philip Hagelberg	Coffee Hosts	Outreach Committee

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<u>Today, January 3</u>	<u>Wednesday, January 6</u>
9:00a Chime Rehearsal	4:45p WNL!
<u>Monday, January 4</u>	7:30p Choir Practice
10:30a Melting Pot	<u>Thursday, January 7</u>
<u>Tuesday, January 5</u>	8:00a Men's Bible Study
7:00p Cong. Life Comm. Mtg.	9:30a Women in the Bible
7:00p Outreach Comm. Mtg.	Noon AI-Anon Meeting
7:00p Worship Comm. Mtg.	<u>Saturday, January 9</u>
7:30p AI-Anon Meeting	9:30a Un-Greening of the Church

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor:	Rev. Sharon H. Amstutz	Secretary:	Tina Simon
Director of Youth Ministry:	Andy Irvin	Custodian:	Marie Britt
Choir Director:	Randy Adams		

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604
Phone: (423) 282-5324

Second Sunday After Christmas
January 3, 2010
Sunday, eleven o'clock

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Bless us, O God,
with a reverent sense of your presence,
that we may be at peace
and may worship you with all our mind and spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.