

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 "O God, Thou Faithful God" J.S. Bach

CHORAL INTROIT "As Morning Dawns" Youth Ensemble

*CALL TO WORSHIP from the Canticle of Hannah, 1 Sam. 2:1-10

Leader: My heart exults in the Lord,
for I rejoice in the power of God's salvation

**People: There is none as holy as the Lord;
there is no rock as strong as our God.**

Leader: The Lord is the author of life and death;
it is God who humbles, yet God also exalts.

**People: God raises the poor from the dust,
lifting the needy from the refuse heap.**

Leader: God gives them a place with princes,
and assigns them seats of honor.

**People: The Lord judges the ends of the earth;
to God be the power and the glory!**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 139 "Come, Thou Almighty King"

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Have mercy on us, O God,
for the sin in our dealings with others –

**people we overlook or ignore,
those we treat as enemies,
and those with whom we need reconciliation**

Have mercy on us, O God,
for treating your creation casually –

**for wasting our resources,
squandering our talents,
seeking after the frivolous,
and failing in our stewardship.**

Have mercy on us, O God,
for our shallow faith –

**for giving our hearts to empty things,
for seeing your way as a burden and not a gift.**

**In your mercy, forgive us, O God.
Purify our hearts and rule in our lives,
that the world would see in us
a witness to your sovereign love and glory.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,
we are assured that there is no sin so terrible
that God cannot forgive,
no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal.
God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.
Receive the forgiving love of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 579

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

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HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING pg. 244 1 Sam. 1:4-20

ANTHEM "For Love Shall Be Our Song" D.E. Wagner

God is love, God is peace, God is joy and gladness.
May we then live our lives in love, in peace, in joy with Christ our Lord.

For love shall be our song, as we lift our hearts to the Lord;
and as members of the family of God, rejoice, give thanks and praise.

And when others do us wrong, patience we will show,
to forgive as Christ did us; seeds of love we'll sow.

God is love, God is peace, God is joy and gladness.
May we then live our lives in love, in peace, in joy with Christ our Lord.

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CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

**Gateway to Worship

*HYMN OF PREPARATION # 452 "O Day of God, Draw Nigh"

GOSPEL READING pg. 50 Mark 13:1-8

SERMON Not So Impressive, After All Rev. Sharon Amstutz

RESPONDING 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 "Aria" G.F. Handel

*DOXOLOGY # 591 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF CONSECRATION # 85 "What Wondrous Love Is This"
(Congregation and Chime Choir)

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING RESPONSE 371 (refrain only) "Lift High the Cross"

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

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*POSTLUDE "Postlude in A Minor" J.L. Krebs

*(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.

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.

*Coffee Fellowship will be served in the Fellowship Hall today. Please join us
immediately after worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments and to
participate in the Alternative Gift Fair.*

The **Mission and Outreach Committee** invites you to come to the Fellowship Hall today after the worship service to enjoy holiday cookies, punch and Fair Exchange coffee while you participate in the **Alternative Gift Fair**, viewing exhibits and talking with representatives of the organizations being supported. Monetary gifts will go directly to the organization of your choice. If you are unable to attend the Gift Fair, you may use the **enclosed Alternative Gift form** to indicate your support. These forms may be turned in any time during Advent.

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There will be a **Meeting of the Congregation** immediately following worship **next Sunday, November 22nd**, for the purpose of electing officers. The following are the nominees being presented by the Nominating Committee:

Margaret Sullenger: Born in West Virginia, Margaret Sullenger completed her undergraduate studies at West Virginia Wesleyan College and her internship at the University of Arkansas School of Medical Sciences. She ended her profession as a dietician when her husband, Gene, became terminally ill and needed her care. Before moving to Johnson City, Margaret called many places home, including Cleveland, Pittsburg, Detroit, Chicago, Chattanooga, and Fairfield Glade. She has 3 daughters and 3 grandchildren.

Charles Trifiletti: Charles was born in Washington, D.C. and lived in the Maryland suburbs until moving to Tennes.see in 1994. He graduated from Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville in 1979. Charles was a member of the tennis team in his senior year. In 1995, he enrolled at ETSU and finished his degree work in 1997, earning a BA in History. Charles has been a member of Covenant for three years, serves on the Mission & Outreach committee and is a very active volunteer around the church.

Max Wilson: Max Wilson was born and reared in Mountain City. He grew up in a Baptist church and accepted Jesus Christ as Savior at an early age. There he served as Sunday School, training union teacher and deacon. In 1984 he joined Mountain City Presbyterian Church where he was active until he retired and moved to Johnson City in 1994. Max has been a member of Covenant since August 2008, and belongs to four Bible Study groups, including the Thursday morning Men's Bible Study group here. In his free time he works as a volunteer with alcoholics and drug addicts, and plans to continue this work the rest of his life. Max and his wife, Dee, have two grown daughters, Debbie and Angie.

Christian Zembower: Dr. Christian Zembower has been Director of Bands and assistant professor of music at East Tennessee State University since the Fall of 2006. His duties include conducting two concert bands, teaching music education courses, and leading all aspects concerning the bands program. Before accepting this position, he served as assistant director of bands at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana from 1998 to 2006, where he thankfully met his wife, Lauri, while living and working there in the region of Indianapolis. They've been married for nearly four years. Originally from Short Gap, WV, a small, rural community in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, about six hours north of Johnson City, Christian's parents are retired and living in Cumberland, MD, and he has an older sister (also living in Cumberland) and a younger sister who lives in Winchester, VA.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter: Jim Starr Acolytes: Julia Hagelberg
Liturgist: Anne Smith Carolee Mabe
Organist: Dr. David Runner Chimer: Kalli Dulin
Youth Ensemble Director: Anne Smith Gateway: Linda Dulin
Flute: Melissa Freeman Nursery: Karen Mabe
Coffee Hosts: Session
Youth Ensemble and Chime Choir

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Sharon H. Amstutz Secretary: Tina Simon
Director of Youth Ministry: Andy Irvin Nursery: Jeanne Gamble
Choir Director: Randy Adams Custodian: Marie Britt
Pianist: Amy Jones

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, November 15 Wednesday, November 18
After Worship: Alternative Gift Fair 4:45p WNL!
9:00a Chime Rehearsal 7:30p Choir Practice
Monday, November 16 Thursday, November 19
Deadline to register for Middler Retreat 8:00a Men's Bible Study
Tuesday, November 17 9:30a Women in the Bible
10:00a Ladies' Bible Study Noon Al-Anon Meeting
7:00p Christian Ed. Comm. Mtg. Friday, Nov. 20 - Nov. 22
7:30p Al-Anon Meeting Middler Retreat

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

Doris Lewis (Alan's mother), John Merriss, Rod Irvin (Andy's father), the Dulin family, Elva McCartt, the Smith family, Roger Hecht, Peter Block, Sue Sheffield, Bob Hunter (Hal's brother), Pat Adams, Christian James Ward (baby of friend of Sue Crandall), Bob Thomps on (Phyllis Thompson's father), Anna Welker (friend of the Sutter's), George Gardner (the Willis' brother-in-law), Lane Johnson (CB Willis' cousin), Harriette Carr, Ed & Marie Britt, Karen Kornweibel & Daniel Newcomer (friends of Phyllis Thompson), 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.

Poinsettias! If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas season, please use the enclosed order form. Cost is \$10 each this year and the deadline for ordering is **Sunday, November 29th!**

2010 Tithes - We are working with your pledges for 2010 to develop the budget. It is very important that we receive your information soon to be able to complete the process. Our goal is to be finished by December 1st. (Please remember that as year end approaches, your tithes and offerings will be credited to your 2009 Statement of Giving if made before Dec. 31st.) If you have questions, please contact Shirley Hines or Hal Hunter.

Please check the table in the Narthex and pick up your **Quarterly Giving Report**.

Committee Chairs need to have their 2010 budget requests to Gary Smith, Shirley Hines or Hal Hunter as soon as possible.

Middler Youth Retreat: tomorrow is the deadline to register!! See Andy for details!

Good Samaritan—We will continue to collect good used men's pants and winter coats thru the end of the year, so you still have time to go through your closets and storage bins!

Advent Sunday Evening Schedule

Everyone is welcome on Sunday nights for food, fellowship & fun and we observe Advent. All events begin at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 29: New Year's in November – To celebrate the beginning of the Christian calendar and the first Sunday in Advent, we're throwing a New Year's party! Bring an appetizer and join us for fun and games.

Sunday, December 6: Service Project: The River – After dinner, we will be stuffing stockings and wrapping donated gifts for the women of The River. (A list of needed items is on the table in the Narthex above the collection bins.) There will be a supper sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we will know how many to cook for.

Sunday, December 13: Church Night Potluck Supper – Supper will be followed by the youth-led Christmas program.

Sunday, December 20: Christmas Caroling – Meet at the church to carol at various members' houses and nursing homes. After caroling we will bring snacks to share at the Amstutz home.

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PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

putting faith into action

Each of the 1.5 million children of prisoners in America face a risk five to seven times higher than an average child of being incarcerated one day. Prison Fellowship Ministry is seeking to reach these at-risk children through the Spirit and love of Jesus Christ.

By partnering with this vital ministry, you are helping to strengthen the ties that bind a child to his/her incarcerated parent and to remind these children that they are not forgotten. Volunteers are needed to help ease the pain of imprisoned parents who are unable to provide presents for their children by buying suggested Christmas gifts (worth \$25) for the incarcerated parents to give to their children.

At the Alternative Gift Fair (today, November 15th) you will have the opportunity to sign up for your little angel. You will be able to choose a child from the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. Your gifts can be returned to the church, wrapped and labeled, on or before Sunday, November 29th. A party of Angel Tree volunteers will deliver the gifts to the children on the following Sunday, Dec. 6th.

There are other important volunteer opportunities with Angel Tree as well. If you are not able to "adopt" a child, please consider a cash or check donation at the Angel Tree table. Also, we will need volunteers to wrap books for children and caregivers, to help organize gifts as they arrive at the church, to map driving directions to children's homes, and to deliver gifts to the children on Sunday, December 6th. If you would be interested in volunteering in any of these important ways, please sign up at the Angel Tree table.

In an Angel Tree Christmas, everyone wins. The prisoner feels the pride of doing something personal for her child. The child experiences the joy of knowing that her parent has not forgotten her. And we receive the blessing of service and enjoy the spiritual growth that comes from *putting faith into action*. We hope you will join us by participating in this special ministry this year.

For more information, please contact David Wood and Phyllis Thompson, Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Coordinators, at 926.9263.

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 15, 2009
Sunday, eleven o'clock

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

God of grace,
you have given us minds to know you,
hearts to love you,
and voices to sing your praise.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may celebrate your glory
and worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.