

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 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" arr. M. Sherrill Kelsey

\*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Isaiah 55

\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 399 "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

Leader: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Silent confession

Leader: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Silent confession

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

Silent confession

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

Silent confession

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

Silent confession

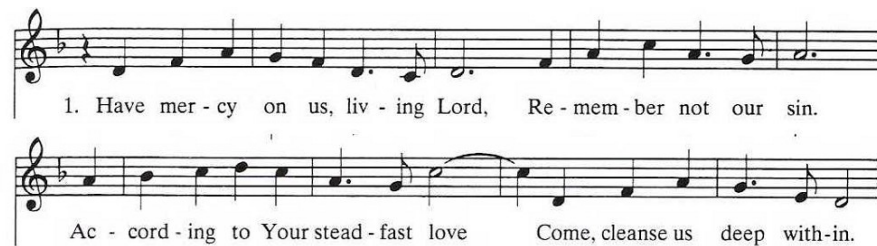
Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

Silent confession

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

Silent confession

Leader: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,



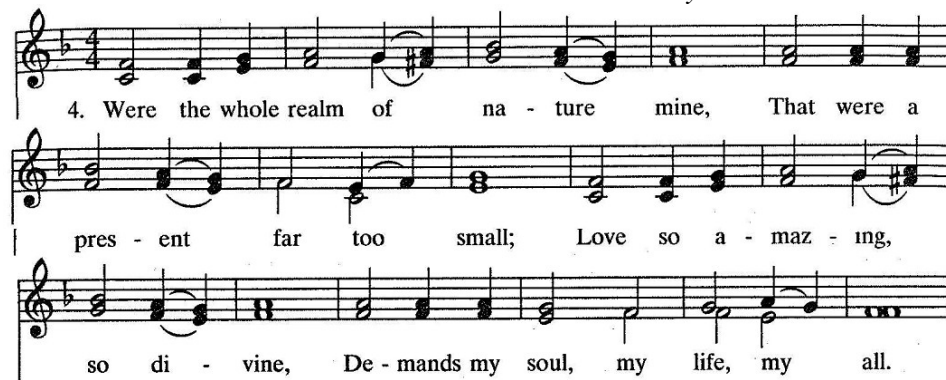
\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory, or are too deep for our words, are not beyond God's forgiving love. God, who knows us completely, bestows pardon and peace.

People: Thanks be to God.

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 101, Stanza 4

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"



HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING pg. 685 Isaiah 55:1-9

GOSPEL READING pg. 76 Luke 13:1-9

ANTHEM "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Gilbert Martin

Text can be found in Hymn #100

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS Deborah Lewis

\*\*Gateway to Worship

READING FROM THE PSALMS pg. 527 Psalms 63:1-8

SERMON Parched Souls The Rev. Sharon Amstutz

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH pg. 15 (Ecumenical version) The Nicene Creed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*COMMUNION HYMN # 365 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Offering

Offertory "At Calvary" arr. Anthony Burger

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

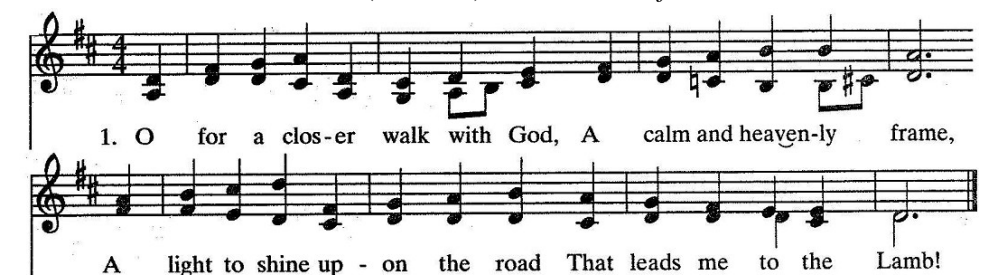
Prayer after Communion

GOING OUT TO SERVE

\*COMMITMENT HYMN # 359 "More Love to Thee, O Christ"

\*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING RESPONSE # 396 (Stanza 1) "O for a Closer Walk with God"



\*POSTLUDE "Praise to the Lord" arr. M. Sherrill Kelsey

(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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Please join us in the library immediately after worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

The congregation expresses its deepest sympathy to Sharon Miller in the death of her mother, Dorothy Stanfiel.

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary by George & Bobbie Carroll.

**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.

The 5-cents-a-meal offering will be received during the final hymn. You are asked to consider giving 5 cents for each meal you have eaten last month (or any amount you wish) to help feed those who are hungry. This offering supports both local and global hunger programs.

**PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS**  
 Sharon & David Miller, Steve Bader, Pat Adams, Jean Freeman (Bill's mother), Helen Davis, Rod Irvin (Andy's father), Elva McCartt, Roger Hecht, Peter Block, Marvin Parker (Evelyn Kemp's cousin), Bob Hunter (Hal's brother), Ed & Marie Britt, 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	Chimer:	Mark Jones
Liturgist:	Margaret Sullenger	Gateway:	Kathi Cary
Acolytes:	Julia Hagelberg	Nursery:	Linda Dulin
	Carolee Mabe	Coffee Hosts:	Vision Seekers Class
Cantor:	Dan Pope		

**CHURCH STAFF:**

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

**THIS WEEK AT COVENANT**

<u>Today, March 7</u>	<u>Wednesday, March 10</u>
9:00a Chime Rehearsal	4:45p WNL!
<u>Monday, March 8</u>	7:30p Choir Practice
6:30p Lenten Study Group (Amstutz)	<u>Thursday, March 11</u>
	8:00a Men's Bible Study
<u>Tuesday, March 9</u>	9:30a Women in the Bible
6:00p Lenten Study Group (Rice)	Noon Al-Anon Meeting
6:30p Lenten Study Group (Zembower)	6:00p Safety Comm. Mtg.
7:00p Cong. Life Comm. Mtg.	
7:30p Al-Anon Meeting	
7:30p Friendship Circle	

If you would like to place an **Easter Lily** in the Sanctuary for Easter, please complete the enclosed form and place it, along with your payment, in the offering plate. Note "Easter Lily" on your check made to *Covenant Presbyterian Church*. Cost is \$12.00 each and **the deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**LADIES OF THE CHURCH:** If you would like to be in a Circle beginning in September of 2010, even if you have not been in the **Friendship Circle** in the past, please indicate on the sign-up sheet in the narthex whether a daytime or evening meeting time would suit you. In the meantime, you are welcome to attend the current Friendship Circle group which meets on the second Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30; the place is announced in the bulletin and in the Courier.

Throughout Lent **cutwork banners** depicting the themes or biblical stories of Lent and the Passion of Christ will be hung in the windows of the sanctuary, leaving the sanctuary in increasing darkness. Our thanks to Sue Sheffield for designing and creating these beautiful pieces.

**Montreat 2010** - If you are an interested adult or family or youth, the Conferences on Worship and Music will follow the Youth Conference week this summer, Week 1 June 20-26, week 2 June 27-July 3. Contact Sue Sheffield, or go to [www.montreat.org](http://www.montreat.org) for conference information and registration information.

Our January collection for **Good Samaritan** was 65 pounds. In February it was 120 pounds. As we all know the need is just as great if not more so with so many families without work. From March 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> Good Samaritan will once again benefit from the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation Grant. This means that any donation of cash, check, or food item (valued at \$1.00 per item or pound) will be matched by the Feinstein Foundation. Feinstein's past million dollar challenges have raised a record \$940 million dollars for agencies nationwide. As you think about your March and April donation, think generously.

The Holston Presbytery Youth Council will be holding a **Senior High Retreat** at Camp on March 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. Any High School Youth that are interested should see Andy for a flyer ASAP. The cost is \$60 dollars, and the theme is "What Does God Have That Wal-Mart Doesn't?"

**Church night supper** will be held on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.—we hope to see everyone there! We will be going green for St. Paddy's Day, so bring your favorite green food (if you're feeling creative!), and we'll find out who truly has the "luck 'o the Irish" after dinner!

The Property Committee has planned a "**Church Spring Clean Up**" to be conducted Saturday, March 20, 2010, from 7:00 AM until everyone gets tired.

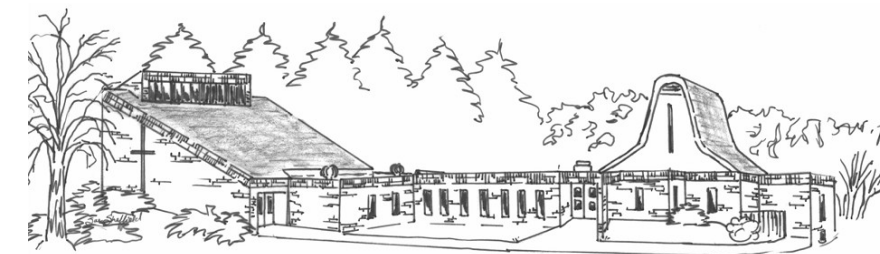
**Friendship Circle** will meet on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Betty Maletich's, 3303 Honeywood Drive. Bible Study: Lesson 7. *To carpool, meet at the church at 7:10 p.m.*

**Help Wanted**

**Position:** Director of Covenant's Wednesday night children's program.  
**Hours:** Wednesday evenings 4:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
**Responsibilities:** Recruit leaders of children's activities, develop schedule for the year, recruit meal teams and or meal team leader, monitor Wednesday night activities.  
**Experience:** No experience necessary. On-the-job training will be provided if position is filled by April 10<sup>th</sup>.  
**Compensation:** Fulfillment of knowing you help to provide Christian education to the children of our church. Fellowship with church leaders and members of all ages. Lots of smiles and occasional hugs.

Please call the church office if you are interested in this important volunteer opportunity!

COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



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

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
 March 7, 2010  
 Sunday, eleven o'clock

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord,  
 trusting in our own goodness,  
 but in your all-embracing love and mercy.  
 We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under your table,  
 but it is your nature always to have mercy.  
 So feed us with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 that we may forever live in him and he in us. Amen.