

GREETING

This is the day the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass.
Let us go with the shepherds:
People: Let us go to find the Savior!
Leader: Let us go with the wise ones:
People: Let us go to find God’s promise, born for us!
Leader: Let us go with the poor and humble:
People: Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.
Leader: Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.
Come, let us worship; come, let us adore him:
People: Christ the Lord!

***OPENING PRAYER**

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

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of love,
all year long we pursue power and money,
yet you come in weakness.
All season long we covet great material gifts,
when you alone offer what is lasting.
Through the work of this Lord Jesus,
who comes among us full of grace and truth,
forgive us,
heal us,
correct us.
Then open our lips,
that we may sing your praise with the angels,
and remake our lives,
that we may witness to your transforming love.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Luke 2:10-11

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 23 (refrain)** *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING pg. 693 Isaiah 63:7-9

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

****Gateway to Worship**

***HYMN OF PREPARATION # 36** *“In the Bleak Midwinter”*

GOSPEL READING pg. 2 Matthew 2:13-23

SERMON Eventually, the Shepherds, Angels and Wise Men All Go Home
Rev. Sharon Amstutz

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten of the Father before all worlds;
God of God, Light of light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made.
Who, for us and our salvation,
came down from heaven,
and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory
***Doxology # 22 (verse 4)** *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”*
***Prayer of Dedication**

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN OF CONSECRATION # 38** *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*

***BENEDICTION**

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

***POSTLUDE**

(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.

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS are available on the table in the Narthex.

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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 following worship
for a time of fellowship and refreshments.*

*The congregation expresses its deepest sympathy to the Hillhouse family
in the death of Joel’s father, David.*

COMMUNION

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

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, December 27th and Monday, January 3rd.

THE PASTOR will be out of the office the week of December 27th. If you have an emergency, please call the church office at 282-5324.

THE NEWSLETTER

The **January Courier** can be found on the table in the narthex. **Help us save postage!** **Be sure to pick up your copy!**

NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

Larry Brandenburg will begin as Music Director at choir rehearsal on Wednesday, January 5th. (see article in Courier) Please be sure to introduce yourself and welcome him to the family at Covenant Presbyterian Church!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Last Sunday the Christmas Joy Offering was received. Our offering supports the education of students at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges and helps families of active and retired church workers in need. There is still time to contribute. Thank you for your generosity.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

Is it too late?! Not for **Alternative Gift** giving. Each mission could still use and appreciates your help, this year more than ever. If you missed the Alternative Gift Fair and would like to give a gift in a friend or family member’s name, there is still time. Missions are: **CASA, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Living Waters for the World, Rise Up for Kids and The River.** **Alternative Gift forms** are on the table in the Narthex. (Cards and envelopes for your use are available in the church office.) Thank you.

THE MITTEN TREE

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.

REMINDER FOR PLEDGES

Next year is almost around the corner. Here are just a few reminders as you consider your year-end contributions to the church. If possible, please consider fulfilling your “2010” Pledge. To those who have made your 2011 Pledge, thank you for supporting the church and its mission. If you are planning on giving a contribution of stock, please have a broker statement in the Church Office no later than Friday, December 31, 2010, for the gift to be included as a “2010” contribution. All donations must be delivered or mailed (and postmarked) on or before December 31, 2010 in order to receive a charitable tax donation for “2010”. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2011 will not qualify for a charitable tax contribution deduction in 2010. However, checks that are written, mailed and postmarked in “2010” will be deductible in 2010 even if not received by the church until 2011. Thank you for your generous gifts to the church, the Stewardship Committee.

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

Chris Adler Hillhouse, Arlene Wilkinson, Jack Fletcher, Agnes Plank, Lattie Collins, Jim Crandall, Bob & Estelle Armistead, Roger Hecht, Rose Willis, Hazel Hinkle (John Merriss' sister-in-law), Patricia Chafin (former member of Covenant), John Brumit (Betsy Moakler's brother), Max Wilson, Pat Adams, Vi Block, Elva McCartt, Arthur "Bud" & Eileen Kelsey (friends of Butch & Harriette Carr), Marvin Parker (Evelyn Kemp's cousin), Ed & Marie Britt, Corrine Broyles, Julia Trifiletti, Aneita Carr

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
Liturgist:	Andy Irvin
Acolytes:	Linden Hillhouse & Grace Madden
Chimer:	Sean Madden
Gateway:	Rosemary Whitson
Nursery:	Andrea Sutter
Coffee Fellowship:	Andrea Sutter

CHURCH STAFF :

Pastor:	Rev. Sharon H. Amstutz
Director of Youth Ministry:	Andy Irvin
Pianist & Interim Choir Director:	Jennifer Palmer
Secretary:	Tina Simon
Financial Secretary:	Anne Webb
Custodian:	Marie Britt

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT :

Today, December 26
9:00a Chime Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 27
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 28
7:00p Party at ETSU Campus House
7:30p Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, December 29
7:30p Choir Practice

Thursday, December 30
8:00a Men's Bible Study
9:30a Women in the Bible
Noon Al-Anon Meeting

NEW CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Sharon: sharon@covenantpresjc.org

Andy: youth@covenantpresjc.org

Tina: office@covenantpresjc.org

UN-GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Please save Saturday morning, **January 8th (at 9:30)** for Un-decorating of the church. We need both men and women, several with strong backs – we will need to carry all those boxes back down to the basement! Many hands will make light work of this. Please come and help if you can!

2011 STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

Your **2011 offering envelopes** are on the table in the Narthex. Please take yours. If you do not find a box of envelopes with your name, but wish to have one, please call Tina (282-5324) or send an e-mail to the office (office@covenantpresjc.org).

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held as part of our **After Church Lunch on Sunday, January 23rd**. Highlights of 2010 will be reviewed, the 2011 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.

FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS !

Want a great opportunity to connect with friends who have gone away to school? The **Presbyterian Student Fellowship** is hosting a party for you! Join them at **7 pm on Tuesday, December 28th** at the Presbytery's Campus House at ETSU in Johnson City.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We're about to begin a new year and with that 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.

REMINDER TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2010 Committee Reports for the Annual Report need to be e-mailed to Tina **before January 10th, 2011**. Thank you!

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

Phone: (423) 282-5324

E-Mail: cpcjctn@mounet.com

Website: www.covenantpresjc.org

1st Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2010

Sunday, eleven o'clock

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Dear God,

silence all voices within our minds but your own.

Help us to seek and be able to follow your will.

May our prayers be joined

with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith,

that together we may glorify your name

and enjoy your fellowship forever.

In Jesus' name, Amen.