

*(As we enter the sanctuary, let us quietly 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

GREETING

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

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Janet Powell

PRELUDE

"Kings of Orient"

Fred Bock

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, join the search for all God will reveal.
We are the church, committed to an encounter with mystery.

**People: God has sent light to dispel our fears.
The glory of God has risen upon us.**

Leader: The gospel of Christ reveals God's grace.
We share in the promise of Jesus Christ.

**People: We gather together and lift up our eyes.
Our hearts thrill to the sight and our lips rejoice.**

Leader: Through us, the wisdom of God will be made known.
There is rich variety to meet each one where we are.

**People: The radiance of truth surrounds us.
Boldly and confidently, we approach our God.**

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 63

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

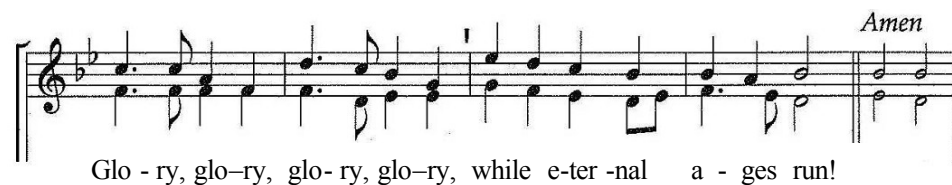
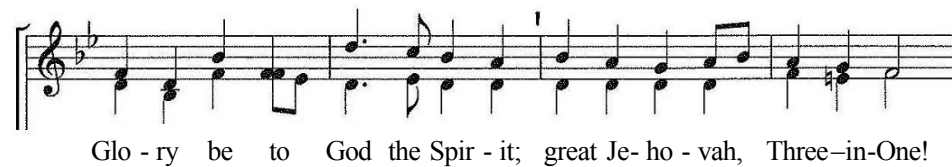
**God of sovereigns and commoners,
we confess that we are often more impressed with famous people
than we are with your amazing glory.
The rulers of this earth are more real to us
than the One who reigns over time and eternity.
Your priorities are not foremost in our lives.
We reach for power and popularity
more than for justice for the poor.
We are more focused on prosperity
than on relief for the oppressed.
Our pursuits do not satisfy;
save us from their fragmenting grip in our lives.
Cause a new epiphany among us, we pray. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Regent Square 87 87 87

Henry Thomas Smart, 1813-1879



HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING pg. 690

Isaiah 60:1-6

ANTHEM

"Seek the Lord"

arr. Tom Fettke

Seek the Lord while he may be found.
Call upon the Lord while he's waiting near.

Seek the Lord, seek the Lord.
Seek the Lord while he may be found.

Let the wicked forsake his ways,
and the evil one his thoughts, and return unto our God!
And the Lord will have mercy, and the Lord will freely pardon.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

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MOMENT FOR CHILDREN

Deborah Lewis

GOSPEL READING pg. 2

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

New Light, New Way

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Edema

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN # 68

"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (pg. 14 – traditional version)

The Apostles' Creed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER pg. 16 (Traditional version)

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"We Three Kings"

John Hopkins, Jr.

*Doxology # 428 (v. 1)

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN # 66

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

*BENEDICTION

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come.
Take that light into the world and spread it around.

**People: We see more now than when we came together.
We are ready to hear the world's cries and feel its pain.**

Leader: Your hearts will thrill and rejoice in your Savior.
Give yourselves as servants of the Gospel.

**People: Christ has numbered us among the saints.
We are part of God's eternal purpose.**

Leader: You are commissioned and empowered to serve.
Look for the star that will lead you day by day.

**People: In boldness and confidence, we make our witness.
In the strength God supplies, we become helpers of the needy.**

Leader: Amen.

People: Amen.

*POSTLUDE

"March of the Kings"

Carl Simone

(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.

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Hearing devices and large-print Hymnals are available in the back of the sanctuary; and a limited number of large-print bulletins are on the table in the Narthex.

Please remember that the thermostat has been set to 68 degrees for the winter season. Lap blankets are available under the table in the Narthex for those who need them.

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.*

Good Samaritan

Next Sunday the **Good Samaritan Food Offering** will be received. This month they need: small (single-serving size) canned vegetables, fruits, meats and soups with pop-top lids, packs of pudding and Jell-o cups, small jars of instant coffee, creamer and sugar packets, crackers, small jars of peanut butter and jelly, and packs of raisins.

Annual Meeting & After Church Lunch

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held as part of our **After Church Lunch on Sunday, January 22nd**. Highlights of 2011 will be reviewed, the 2012 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.

• **Note to Committee Chairs:** 2011 Committee Reports for the Annual Report need to be e-mailed to Tina **before January 10th, 2012.**

**** Volunteers Needed in 2012 ****

NURSERY:

While Jeanne Gamble has been rehired to cover the infant nursery, we still need continued coverage/staffing for the room across the hall, where the toddlers (aged 2+) are cared for during the service. If you are willing and able to help, please contact Linda Dulin at 913-0202. Thank you!

COMMUNION SERVERS and USHERS:

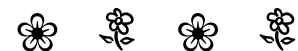
Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Narthex. For info on serving communion, please contact Helen Davis at 929-2085. For info on serving as an Usher, please call Jim Starr at 928-4108. Thank you!

AFTER CHURCH COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

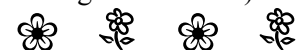
Oh, no! Juan Valdez is missing!! That means that dear ol' Covenant could use some help with Coffee Hour after Sunday worship. It isn't that time consuming or expensive and adds a great deal to our Sundays together. Won't you consider helping out? Just sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you have questions, please contact Andrea (773-5602) or Lauri (620-3625). Thank you!

YOUNG ADULT JANUARY SHIN-DIG!

This month we will be risking it all to meet on Friday the 13th (maybe it's a full moon, too!) We'll be meeting in Bristol at the Johnson Controls Ice Rink at the Speedway at 6:30 for some ice skating and winter fun. After that we'll be going to the new 620 State for dinner, located--uniquely enough--at 620 State St. As always, bring yourselves and your friends, and please RSVP to either Josh or Lynnea so we'll know how many to expect for dinner. See you there!



The 2012 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 to mark a special occasion. (Please call Tina in the office at 282-5324 for ordering instructions.)



Mission Statement

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to glorify and enjoy God. We live knowing that God calls us to be a place of love, support, hope and acceptance regardless of earthly labels; Jesus Christ commissions us to make disciples and passionately share our gifts with the world through prayer, teaching, and service; the Holy Spirit allows us to determine and carry out Christ's will for our lives and the life of our church, and empowers us to seek out and respond to the needs of our local and global community.

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

Audrey Thompson; Mary Nell Stegall; Barbara & Jerry Ladich; Mary Bowman; Rose Willis; Eileen Madden; Jan Paveglio's granddaughter, Nina; Doris Sanders; Tom Marshall (Tina's fiancé); Mary Bell Orr (the Underwood's daughter's mother-in-law); Bill Hagood (Sharon Amstutz' father); Arlene Wilkinson; Chris Adler Hillhouse; Pat Wiley; Betty Maletich; Hugh Underwood; Everrette Dale Thompson (Phyllis Thompson's uncle); Jon Christiansen (missionary); Bob Rice (missionary); Peggy Underwood; Eric Smith (son of former members Keith & Pam Smith); Jack Fletcher; Corrine Broyles; Elva McCartt; Marie Britt; Hazel Hinkle (John Merriss' sister-in-law); Patsy Young (Butch Carr's cousin); families of Boge Dyer and Catherine Cox; Arthur "Bud" & Eileen Kelsey; Tim Jones; Joyce Ford & her family (all friends of Butch & Harriette Carr), Sharon Hatcher (friend of Victory Cooper)

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: Andrea Sutter
Nursery: Kathi Cary

This Week at Covenant:

Today, January 8
9:45a Sunday School
11:00a Worship Service
12:30p Session Meeting
Monday, January 9
7:00a AA Meeting
Tuesday, January 10
DEADLINE for Annual Committee Reports
1:30p Friendship Circle
5:00p Human Resources Committee Meeting
7:00p AI-Anon Meeting
Wednesday, January 11
7:00a AA Meeting
5:00p WNL!
7:30p Choir Practice
Thursday, January 12
8:00a Men's Bible Study
9:30a Women in the Bible
Noon AI-Anon Meeting
Friday, January 13
6:30p Young Adult Gathering
Friday, January 14
7:00a AA Meeting

Church Staff:

Director of Youth Ministry: Lynnea Hunter
Music Director: Melodye Sparks
Secretary: Tina Simon
Financial Secretary: Anne Webb
Custodian: Marie Britt
Nursery Worker: Jeanne Gamble

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Baptism of the Lord – January 8, 2012

603 Sunset Drive
Johnson City, TN 37604
(423) 282-5324
E-Mail: office@covenantpresjc.org
Website: www.covenantpresjc.org



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.