

*(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!**

#### CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**PRELUDE** "Sleepers Wake, a Voice Is Calling" Bach

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 9** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
Stanza 1: Choir  
Stanzas 2 & 3: Congregation & Choir

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** Chris, Andrea & Allura Sutter

**\*Hymn** "Lighting the Flame of Hope" (Choir)  
Lighting the flame of hope today, eagerly we watch and pray.  
Savior, Redeemer, come to earth! We await Your humble birth.

#### \*Opening Prayer

Leader: Advent is a time to wait.  
**People: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**  
Leader: During Advent we wait for light in the darkness.  
**People: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**  
Leader: During Advent we wait for freedom from captivity.  
**People: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**  
Leader: During Advent we wait for comfort in sorrow.  
**People: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**  
Leader: During Advent we wait for power in weakness.  
**People: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.**

#### \*Closing Prayer

**\*Hymn** "Lighting the Flame of Hope" (Congregation & Choir)  
Lighting the flame of hope today, eagerly we watch and pray.  
Savior, Redeemer, come to earth! We await Your humble birth.  
*Traditional French Carol, arr. Ruth E. Schram, © 2008 by Alfred Publ. Co.*

#### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Awesome God,  
we confess the sin of our separation from you.  
We have blamed you for hiding from us,  
rather than admitting we have failed to see you  
in the thousands of ways you are revealing yourself every day.  
We have not called on you, and we have not listened for your call to us.  
Without you, we have become tiny islands of self-concern.  
Our links with the rest of your children are stretched and broken.**

**O God, we long for that loving community  
in which your reign is acknowledged and your purposes are served.  
Move us to that place, we pray. Amen.**

#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 23, refrain** "Angels We Have Heard on High"  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

### HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**READING FROM THE PSALMS** pg. 573 Psalm 130

**ANTHEM** "Advent Alleluia" arr. K. Christopher

Salvation is created. O Lord, God, Lord God almighty.  
We offer praise to Thee above; O Lord, holy Lord, God.  
Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. We offer praise to Thee above; O Lord.  
Salvation is created. Alleluia.

#### MOMENT FOR CHILDREN

**GOSPEL READING** pg. 59 Luke 2:25-32

**SERMON** Waiting on Christmas The Rev. Earle Barron

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**\*HYMN # 2** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (pg. 14 – traditional version) The Apostles' Creed

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

#### GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**Offertory** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" Sobaje

**\*Doxology # 22** (v. 4) "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

### GOING OUT TO SERVE

**\*HYMN # 29** "God, Tell It on the Mountain"

#### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

#### \*BENEDICTION

Leader: The time is coming when God will call us to account.  
Be alert and watchful, serving faithfully day by day.

**People: We will look around us for signs of God's presence.  
We will open our eyes to ways to be helpful.**

Leader: Use the gifts you have been given to the glory of God.  
Let the testimony of Christ strengthen you in every way.

**People: We will share our spiritual gifts in word and deed.  
We will seek to be shaped by the potter's hands.**

Leader: Grace to you and peace, from God and Jesus Christ.  
Know that God is faithful and Christ walks with you.

**People: With hearts full of gladness, we will do what is right.  
With great joy, our lives will show forth our faith.**

Leader: Amen.  
**People: Amen.**

**\*POSTLUDE** "Forest Green" Lachenauer

\*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 (and larger-print) bulletins are on the table in the Narthex.**

There will be **no Gateway to Worship** for the children during the Advent season. We hope they enjoy the beauty of the sanctuary, Christmas carols, and the anticipation of Christmas!

**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.*

**Today we again welcome to our pulpit the Rev. Earle Barron.** Earle has served churches in North Carolina and Virginia, and retired in 1986 after sixteen years at Erwin Presbyterian Church. Since his retirement he has kept busy serving eight interim pastorates, and keeping up with his three daughters and five grandchildren.

### Meeting of the Congregation - TODAY

**There will be a Meeting of the Congregation immediately following worship today for the purpose of electing an officer to fill a 2-year unexpired term for the class of 2013.** The following is the nominee being presented by the Nominating Committee.

**Anne Smith:** Anne was raised in Columbia, TN. She has a BA in Spanish and History from MTSU and a Master's in Latin American History from UNC. She is a retired teacher, having taught at the high school, junior high and college levels, and also initiated and worked for six years as the Child Find Coordinator in Johnson City. Anne is married to Gary Smith. They have two sons (Andy & Lee), two daughters-in-law and two grandsons! At Covenant, she has worked primarily with children – among her jobs have been teaching Sunday school for 19 years and working in WNL since its inception. Anne has served one full term and a partial term on the Session and has worked on several committees.

### Poinsettias - Deadline Today

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas season, please use the enclosed order form. Cost is \$10 each and the deadline for ordering is **today, November 27<sup>th</sup>!**

### Communion

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

### Christmas Eve Music

Christmas Eve is a special time in the life of our Church. It is also a time that many welcome home children, grandchildren, and other family members. Perhaps one of your family members sings solos or plays a musical instrument. **Prior to the 5:30 service on Christmas Eve**, there will be a 30-minute time of Christmas music. **If you or one of your family members would like to share music during this time, please call me. I would like to hear from you by December 11<sup>th</sup>.** Call Melodye at (843) 655-2557.

### The Newsletter

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

### Greening of the Church - December 3

**Greening of the Church will be this Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** beginning at 9:30 a.m. P.S.: Save the morning of January 7, 2012 to un-decorate. We will need some strong backs for this. Thanks!

### Songfest 2011 - A Bluegrass/Gospel Concert

Benefiting Interfaith Hospitality Network, **Sunday, December 4, 2011, From 3:00 – 5:30 pm**; FEATURING: Darrin and Brooke Aldridge, ETSU Bluegrass Band, Ed Snodderly, Roger Rasnake, Lisa Pattison, Brandon Story, and others. VA Memorial Theatre, Building #35, Mountain Home Veterans Administration. Tickets: \$15 adults - \$5 children & students. Call IHN at 202-7805 for ticket information.

## Advent Worship Services

The theme of Advent this year is “The Wonder of Waiting.” Covenant is blessed to be led by the Advent Planning Team of Bill Hyers, Melodye Sparks, and Barb Edema with help from Earle Barron. What a wealth of knowledge, variety and experience they bring! We’ll have our traditional Advent wreath and beautifully decorated sanctuary. As we wonder what will be different this year, it is known who will be leading worship services:

Dec. 4: Rev. Barbara Edema  
Dec. 11: Rev. Bill Hyers  
Dec. 18: Rev. Barbara Edema  
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve: Rev. Barbara Edema  
Dec. 25: Christmas Day: Rev. Barbara Edema

Join with your Covenant family, as together we experience “The Wonder of Waiting” this Advent.

### Alternative Gift Fair

#### WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT ANYWAY?

Is it too late?! Not for **Alternative Gift** giving. Each mission could still use and appreciate 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: Missionaries Kristi and Bob Rice, The River, Interfaith Hospitality Network and Living Waters for the World. You may use the **enclosed Alternative Gift form** to indicate your support. Brochures describing these missions are on the table in the Narthex. (Cards and envelopes for your use are available in the church office.) These forms may be turned in any time during Advent. Thank you.

### Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Ministry

#### Save the dates!

#### Today, after worship

The Angel Tree will be in the Narthex. We still have 11 Angels on the tree that are looking for someone to send them on their way to a child who has a parent in prison.

#### By Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

Bring your gifts to the church, wrapped and labeled.

#### On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Angel Tree delivery!

### Saints Alive! Living Generously

Our journey to support God’s kingdom and the mission of Covenant continues. If you have not done so, stop in at the “**Giving Tree**” in the Narthex and add a leaf or two, or three, or...! On the table by the tree is a basket full of leaves. Please pick out a leaf (or leaves) and write your reason for giving, then add it to the tree. If you have not yet had the opportunity to turn in your pledge card for 2012, you may leave it in the offering plate.

### 2012 Pledges

We are working with your pledges for 2012 to develop the budget. It is very important that we receive your information soon to be able to complete the process. Please remember that as year end approaches, your tithes and offerings will be credited to your 2011 Statement of Giving if made before December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have questions, please contact Hal Hunter or Gary Smith.

### December Young Adult Christmas Party!

This month's Young Adult get-together will be Friday, December 9 at 6.30 p.m. at Lynnea Hunter's, 512 W. Maple St. Johnson City. It will be a potluck dinner, so bring your favorite Christmas munchie dish. And bust out the Christmas sweaters! (The one with the most fake glitter-snow wins!) We'll enjoy food, fun, friendship, and possibly even an *A Christmas Story* quote contest. You'll just have to show up to find out. Contact Lynnea to let her know you're coming and, as always, bring yourselves and your friends! Feliz Navidad!

## PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

Eileen Madden, Amy Hecht, Margaret Sullenger, Arlene Wilkinson, Bob Hart, Chris Adler Hillhouse, Helen Davis, Pat Wiley, Betty Maletich, Sue Sheffield, 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), Barbara & Jerry Ladich, Jack Fletcher, Bob Maletich, Corrine Broyles, Elva McCartt, Marie Britt, Hazel Hinkle (John Merriss’ sister-in-law), Patsy Young (Butch Carr’s cousin), Arthur “Bud” & Eileen Kelsey; Tim Jones, Joyce Ford & her family (all friends of Butch & Harriette 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:	Gwen Hunter
Nursery:	Julia Hagelberg
Coffee Fellowship Hostess:	Eleanor Graham
Covenant Chime Choir	

### This Week at Covenant:

#### Today, November 27

9:45a	Sunday School
11:00a	Worship Service

**Immediately following worship: Meeting of the Congregation**

#### Monday, November 28

7:00a	AA Meeting
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#### Tuesday, November 29

7:00p	Al-Anon Meeting
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#### Wednesday, November 30

7:00a	AA Meeting
5:00p	WNL!
7:30p	Choir Practice

#### Thursday, December 1

8:00a	Men’s Bible Study
9:30a	Women in the Bible
Noon	Al-Anon Meeting

#### Friday, December 2

7:00a	AA Meeting
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#### Saturday, December 3

10:00a	Greening of the Church
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### Church Staff:

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

### 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.

# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – November 27, 2011

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### 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.