

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

PRELUDE “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” arr. Smith

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of God’s hands.

People: One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Leader: Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

People: Their sound has gone out into all the lands and their message, to the ends of the world.

Leader: God’s people will gather from all corners of the earth, they will come to worship God.

People: We have heard the heavens declare the glory of God; we have seen the splendor of God’s handiwork. We have gathered together to praise God’s holy name.

Let us worship God!

\*OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 442 “The Church’s One Foundation”

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, although You made all people in your image, we confess that we live with deep divisions. Although you sent Jesus to be savior of the world, we confess that we treat him as our own tribal god. Although you are One and the Body of Christ is One, we fail to display that unity in our worship, our mission, and our fellowship.

Forgive our pride and arrogance, heal our souls, and renew our vision, for the sake of your Son, our savior, the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*CHORAL RESPONSE “Ewe, Thina” arr. Nyberg We walk his way. Unarmed, he faces forces of demons and death. We walk his way. He breaks the bonds of hell, dying on the cross; we walk his way. The tree of freedom blooms by his empty grave; we walk his way.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING pg. 24 Matthew 21:33-46

ANTHEM “The Gift of Love” arr. Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be giv’n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, spirit come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship, we are freed. Amen.

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CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

\*\*Gateway to Worship

Deborah Lewis

OLD TESTAMENT READING pg. 66 Exodus 20:1-20

SERMON The Book of Order Rev. Sharon Amstutz

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*HYMN # 494 “Out of Deep, Unordered Water” BEACH SPRING

SERVICE OF WELCOME

Unison Prayer:

Holy God, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for choosing to add to our number brothers and sisters in faith. Together, may we live in your Spirit, and so love one another, that we may have the mind of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we give honor and glory forever...

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Introduction

Leader: Why do we baptize?

People: Because Jesus instructed his disciples to baptize, and because Jesus himself was baptized by John in the waters of the river Jordan, we celebrate this sacrament among the people whom God has called. Through baptism we are adopted and welcomed into God’s family. In these waters we share in the dying and rising of Jesus, who washes away all our sins. We are made one with Christ and one with all who are joined to Christ in the Church.

Leader: So let us remember with joy our own baptism even as we celebrate this sacrament today.

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontus Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Leader: God has shown us the meaning of generosity—

People: in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: God has abundantly blessed us and called us—

People: to be a community that honors each other, to serve others with joy, to share our love and material possessions.

Leader: Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give.

Offertory “A New Song” Michael T. Turner

\*Doxology #592 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” OLD HUNDRETH

\*Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Leader: Jesus said, “Come to me all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.”

People: “I am the bread of life. Those who come to me shall not hunger, and those who believe in me shall never thirst.”

Leader: Jesus bids us to come: to be taught, to be healed, to be shown compassion, to be fed.

People: But he bids us: come.

Leader: No matter what we bring,

People: It is enough.

Leader: If we have nothing but our need,

People: It is enough.

Leader: He takes our inadequate loaves and fishes, and transforms them into a feast.

People: He takes our fears and limitations, our selfish motives and our greed, and transforms us into his disciples.

Leader: Jesus meets us at this Table, where we have nothing to bring but ourselves, empty and in need.

People: He meets us here, where our inadequacy is our only acceptable offering.

Leader: And he fills us with his feast.

People: His grace transforms our emptiness into abundance,

Leader: Our inadequacy and fear into authority and power.

People: And we leave that lonely place, where we must come alone, and go out together, healed and fed and forgiven.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Prayers of the People

GOING OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN # 514 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” arr. Rice

\*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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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.

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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.

5 Cents A Meal Offering

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.

### Called Meeting of the Congregation - today

There will be a Called Meeting of the Congregation **immediately following worship** today for the purpose of dissolving the relationship between Covenant and the Pastor, Sharon Amstutz.

### Peacemaking Offering

This morning we celebrate **World Communion** with Christians around the world and commit ourselves to working for the unity of the church and peace of Christ through our gifts to the **Peacemaking Offering**. Covenant will retain 25 percent of the offering to be given to support Bob & Kristi Rice, missionaries to the Congo. The other 75 percent will help our partners in the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly as they work on behalf of God's peacemaking throughout the world.

### Music Director

This morning we welcome Covenant's **new Director of Music, Melodye Sparks**. Melodye, an East Tennessee native, has recently returned to Johnson City from Pawleys Island, South Carolina, where she served as Director of Music/Organist at Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church. Melodye's husband, Gary Sparks, is a retired Media Specialist. Gary and Melodye are excited to be back in Tennessee and are looking forward to serving God at Covenant Presbyterian Church!

### New Members

We welcome new members **Jim & Jan Pavaglio, and John & Jane Deaton** as they join with us in the worship and mission of the church.

### Baptism

**John and Jane Deaton** are presenting their sons, **Ellis James and John Russell Deaton**, this morning for the sacrament of baptism. Elder Andrea Sutter is assisting Rev. Amstutz.

### After Church Lunch - October 9

**After Church Lunch – next Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**. This month we will have a **Mexican Fiesta** – bring your favorite enchilada casserole, taco salad, or any other “south of the border” dish! If your dish needs to be kept warm or even heated at the last minute, someone will be in the kitchen by 9:30 a.m. to receive your dish and your instructions. We look forward to sharing this fellowship opportunity with you! If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Sutter (773-5602) or Lauri Zembower (620-3625).

### Follow our World Mission Workers

We have recently added a link on our church webpage that improves access to the activities of the World Mission Workers we support both financially and with prayer. Visit the church's website, [www.covenantpresjc.org](http://www.covenantpresjc.org), and click on "Mission & Outreach". Scroll down and click on the green "World Mission Worker Teams" to reach entries for the two teams we currently support. The Christiansen's, unfortunately, do not have a regular blog but there is a link to their supporting organization. The Rices maintain an active and inspiring blog that is well worth checking regularly.

### Presbyterian Women

#### Friendship (Afternoon) Circle:

**Tuesday, October 11 at 1:30 p.m.**

Hostess: Carlyn Sue Hoffman

406 Green Valley Dr., J.C., 202-7281

Lesson Two Leader: Sally Nagel

#### Joy (Evening) Circle:

**Tuesday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m.**

Contact: Anne Smith (929-1604)

Meeting will be at the church.

Lesson Two Leader: Margie McGonagle

### Young Adult Gathering

**The Young Adults will meet on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** (location TBA). As always, bring yourselves and your friends, and call Lynnea (828-266-1917) with any questions. See you there!

### Campus House Lunch & Colloquium -

Wednesdays 11:45 - 12:45

**The topic for October 5<sup>th</sup>** will be “Is there a Chicken in your Future? Globalization or Localization?” presented by Sam Jones, Transition Town Activist. Sam writes a regular column for The Loafer entitled *Transitions* and actively promotes the spiritual, social, ecological and economic benefits of at least partially returning to a time when most of what we ate and used in our daily lives originated within the local community. Check out the Transition Town movement at: <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/> Come and enjoy our fellowship and a good lunch while Sam updates us on the progress of the backyard chicken movement in Johnson City.

### Good Samaritan Offering

#### Food for Life: Neighbor Helping Neighbor - 2011

In 2010, Good Samaritan Ministries prepared 800 baskets and another 175 fully prepared meals for needy families for Thanksgiving. This year, their goal is 1,000 baskets and 200 prepared meals. **So, for the next two months, instead of our regular monthly offering, our goal will be to collect 400 boxes of macaroni & cheese and 400 cans of sweet potatoes to help Good Samaritan provide these meals.** Just bring your donation to church **by Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**, so that Good Sam will have time to prepare the baskets and meals for those in need. They will appreciate it very much. (Like last year, if you find a good sale on these items, call or e-mail the church so we can let everyone know. Thank you! 282-5324 or [office@covenantpresjc.org](mailto:office@covenantpresjc.org))

***The count so far is: 266 Mac 'n Cheese (134 packages still needed)***

***49 sweet potatoes (still need 351 cans)***

### Middler Retreat - November 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>

**What to expect?** Expect a fun and fast paced weekend full of energetic games, exciting music, and relevant messages. Expect to make new friends and reconnect with old friends. Expect God to meet us at the camp once again, and challenge us to live differently. See Lynnea Hunter or visit [www.holstonyouth.org](http://www.holstonyouth.org) for more details!

### Lost & Found

Are you missing a jacket? Maybe an umbrella? The (overflowing) **Lost & Found box** is on the table in the Narthex.

**Correction to the newsletter article: Third Thursday Dinner is Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>.**

# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

World Communion Sunday

October 2, 2011



### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Fill our worship with grace,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
that every thought, word, and deed  
may be acceptable to you,  
our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.*

—based on Psalm 19:14