Covenant United Presbyterian Church

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Worship with us on YouTube.com/@CovenantTV1813



"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15

Sunday, November 8, 2026
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert
TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.
Worship Leader: Ann Morrison
Musician: Melanie Rodgers
Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor:	God has gathered us to this place,
People:	**where we hear those stories which show us what the kingdom of God is like.**
Pastor:	God summons us to this place,
People:	**where we can learn how to serve our God without reservation, or hesitation.**
Pastor:	God will send us from this place,
People:	**to tell others of God's hopes and dreams, so they, too, can choose to follow God.**
Pastor:	Are you ready to begin?
People:	**Yes! Let us worship God!**

**OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 349 *"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us* WACHET AUF

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You, Lord, have been our dwelling place in all generations. You free us, you provide for us, you have even given yourself to us. Yet so often we forget that this is your story, and try to take the lead. We confess that we have turned from your way and gone our own ways. We have served other gods. We have loved you with our words but not with our actions. Forgive us, and turn us yet

again to your path. Give us courage to follow you, and to proclaim in our lives that we worship and serve only you.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Out of love for the world, God chose to share our humanity in the person of Jesus Christ, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)
The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are accepted, we are loved, we are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**RESPONSE C54 *To God Be the Glory* MY TRIBUTE

To God be the glory, to God be the glory,
To God be the glory for the things He has done.
With His blood He has saved me; With His pow'r He has raised me.
To God be the glory for the things He has done.

**THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

The Word

**ILLUMINATION 260 v.2 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* HYFRYDOL

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?

HT LESSON Joshua 24: 1 – 3a, 14 – 25 *Pew Bible P.187-188*

Leader: This, is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 78 HYMN 632 *People of the Lord* JENNY VON TSCHEGG

NT LESSON 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 18 *Pew Bible P.960*

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle. People: **Praise be to You, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 25: 1 – 13 *Pew Bible P.806-807*

Pastor: The Gospel of Our Lord. People: **Glory to You, O Christ!**

CANTICLE 49 V.2 *The God of Abraham Praise* LEONI

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

MESSAGE *Choosing Our Chosenness* PASTOR JOHN

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *From the Iona Abbey Community*

We believe in God
whose love is the source of all life
and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face
in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil
that awaits to enslave us all
and whose love, defeating death,
holds a promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful
and full of doubt, in God we trust;
and in the name of Jesus Christ,
we commit ourselves, in the service of others,
to seek justice and to live in peace,
to care for the Earth and to share the commonwealth
of God's goodness,
to live in the freedom of forgiveness

and the power of the spirit of love,
and in the company of the faithful,
wherever found. Amen.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER with THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Eucharist

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Psalm 23* ~ Sorenson

**DOXOLOGY 647 *Give Thanks* GIVE THANKS

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. (x2)
And now, let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say. "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" (x2)
Give thanks. Give thanks.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks, O God, for the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us. Receive these gifts as symbols of the dedication of our very lives and signs of trust in your coming reign of justice and peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

The Sending

**HYMN 839 *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!* ASSURANCE

**THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE

Church Notices:

Wait! Don't Go Yet!

Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall.
Thanks to *Dorothy Wallace & Ron Beatty* for hosting today!

Mission

Nov 8 & 15 Thanksgiving-inspired Sides & Baking Items
Nov 22 & 29 Pasta/Rice Sides & Canned Meats

Calendar

Nov 13 America 250 Film Series *"A Great Awakening"* 7:00 PM
Nov 15 Stewardship Sunday & Noisy Offering of Loose Change
Nov 22 "Christ the King" Sunday with Holy Communion
Nov 29 Advent I: Hope
Dec 6 Advent II: Peace
Dec 13 Advent III: Joy

Operation Christmas Child

For those wishing to do so, shoeboxes are available in the Sanctuary to be filled for international children. Boxes are due back by Sunday, November 15.

Christmas Memorial Plants

Order Deadline Wed. Dec. 2 12:00 Noon – Bring to church office WITH payment.



Please Pray for:

Betty Butler, experiencing a touch of pneumonia;

Pearl, Betty Butler's sister, celebrated her 100th birthday, on October 29, 2026;

Audrey Carlson, doing well at her Concordia apartment recovering from a broken pelvis;

Janie & Lowell Wetzell, long-time church members, both with health issues;

Zoanne Weckerly, Melanie Rodger's Mother, for healing & transitions;

Elaine Nucci, recovering from shoulder surgery;

Roberta, long-time friend of Elaine, recovering from cancer surgery

Jane Faulkner, Ann Morrison's sister in CA, with continuing housing concerns and **Scotty McAliley,** Ann's cousin in Marietta, Georgia, continuing bi-weekly chemo-therapy for the remainder of her life.

1 Thessalonians 4: 16 – 17

C A U G H T W F A L I V E
S O U N D A I R T H E M S
T H E S S A L O N I A N S
H F T C A L L M T H C A C
I I R I S E O U O E L R H
M R U N O F R P G A O C R
S S M R D T D B E V U H I
E T P S E M E E T E D A S
L W E V A C R Y H N S N T
F I T G D E S C E N D G H
I T F O R E V E R A R E E
W H O D C O M M A N D L N

Word List

THESSALONIANS ARCHANGEL TOGETHER TRUMPET HIMSELF FOREVER DESCEND COMMAND HEAVEN CLOUDS CHRIST CAUGHT SOUND FIRST ALIVE WITH WILL THEN THEM RISE NRSV MEET LORD LEFT FROM DEAD CALL WHO GOD CRY ARE AIR WE UP OF IN BE

(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NRSV) For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.