



April 26, 2026 – 10am
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE

"The Lord's My Shepherd" arr. Sorenson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: How do we come to know the love of God?

People: Not through word or speech alone!

Leader: The love of God is truth and action.

People: Embodied and incarnate.

Leader: Love is felt. Love is witnessed.

People: Love is experienced and encountered.

Leader: Thanks be to God who dwells in the flesh of the kind and the just.

People: Let us worship the God of love!

*Please rise in body or spirit

*HYMN #231

“Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers”



Beginning with rather conventional Easter imagery, this text moves into unexpected territory by declaring that Christ's Resurrection is for “all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.” The name of this traditional Welsh melody simply means “lullaby.”

1 Christ has risen while earth slumbers;
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor:
Christ is risen, God is here!

3 Christ has risen and for ever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present
making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

2 Christ has risen for the people
whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
can't be silenced by the tomb.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One, we confess to you and to one another
that we have not always followed Christ's example.
When we have been abused,
we have been abusive in return.
We have gone astray.
Lead us back into your fold
and guard our souls in Jesus' name. Amen.**

(Silence for Personal Confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS



HYMN #750

“Goodness is Stronger Than Evil”



Recognizing that this text arose from the years of apartheid in South Africa adds depth and resonance to its already confident language. Yet these words can also be read as a summary of Christ's death and resurrection, the true basis of our hope that good will triumph over evil.

Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours; victory is ours,
through God who loves us.
Victory is ours, victory is ours,
through God who loves us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN #188

“Jesus Loves Me”

TALK WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION



THE FIRST READING

Leviticus 25:1-13 (NRSVUE)



This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-10 (NRSVUE)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY †

Life abundant,
God of grace,
you call us by name
to live without fear:
in peace may we resist
all who kill and despoil your people,
that their hearts might be turned
to the only source of life;
through Jesus Christ, the gateway. Amen.



SERMON

“The Resistance of Rest”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven... (Hymnal p. 35. We say “debts & debtors.”)



MINUTE FOR MISSION

Legacy Giving

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



OFFERTORY

“Like a River in My Soul” by Tim Osiek

*DOXOLOGY #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION



*HYMN #715

“The Earth Belongs to God Alone”



This text emerged from a study of the attention in Levitical laws to the well-being of the land, especially by calling for fallow periods, or “land sabbaths,” to preserve the soil. 2 Chronicles 36:21 even suggests that the Babylonian exile may have resulted from abusing the land.

1 The earth belongs to God alone;
hard clay, rich soil, fine sand.
Give thanks wherever food is grown
on borrowed holy land.

2 The fertile ground through years of toil
has cried for Sabbath rest—
a time of peace for worn-out soil
so land can be refreshed.

3 All life belongs to God alone,
in wilderness and fields.
From fallow land, or plowed and sown,
God gives the good it yields.

4 Till God endows the earth once more
with Eden's state of grace,
may we endeavor to restore
all land as sacred space.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reprise of “The Earth Belongs to God Alone”

† From Prayers for an Inclusive Church by Steven Shakespeare. New York: Church Publishing, 2009.

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Assisting in Worship Today:

Audrey Patterson – Liturgist

Ashley Woodard – Vocalist

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music & Technology

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Bible Study - Wednesday at 1:00pm in the Lounge. Join Bible Study with the QR code.

Centering Prayer- Thursday at 8:30am in the Lounge



Please come and join us in the garden every Sunday at 2 PM (weather permitting) for gardening fun and exercise. No experience is necessary - all are welcome....tools provided! All of our produce goes to a local food pantry.

Questions? Contact Diane Sturges at dpsturges@gmail.com

JEAN A. MORTLAND SCHLOARSHIP

Established in 2007 to honor her love of music, education, and faith, the Jean A. Mortland scholarship is awarded annually to support an individual pursuing degrees in music or theology who shows vocational excellence. Funded by her bequest and donations.

APPLY | [BIT.LY/JAMAPP26](https://bit.ly/jamapp26)

DEADLINE | 06.01.26



World Labyrinth Day

May 2 | 1pm



All are invited to join Covenant Presbyterian Church & The Labyrinth Society in a worldwide prayer for Peace.

Walk Covenant's labyrinth at 1 pm to help create a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next around the globe.

ALL are invited to a luncheon where guest and speaker Jean McCoard will be discussing and reading from her latest book, *'Backroads to Paradise'*

May 13
11:30am

RSVP in person
on Sunday
mornings or call
Estelle Scott



VBS

JUNE 15-18, 9-11:30AM

PARTICIPANTS

3 YRS - 5TH GRADE

<https://bit.ly/CPCVBS2026>



VOLUNTEER

RISING 6TH GRADE & ABOVE

<https://bit.ly/CPC26VBSVOL>

Optional Set up Dates:
Set up June 13, 9 am-12 pm,
Tear down June 18, 11:30am



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