

covenant
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



February 1, 2026 – 10am
The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

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

PRELUDE

"Softly and Tenderly" arr. Rouse

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: When we hunger for justice and thirst for the liberation of all life
When we want for collective flourishing with the entirety of your spirit

People: Blessed are we, for our longings will birth the dreams of God.

Leader: When we weep with all the world's aches
When we find ourselves filled with sorrow because of what is cruel,
what is lost, what is forgotten

People: Blessed are we, for God weeps through us.

Leader: When we are punished socially or economically for our refusal to go
with the flow of normalized evil.

When our truth-telling or practices of love leave us isolated or
condemned.

People: Blessed are we, for we offer a glimpse of the Kingdom of God.

Leader: God draws near wherever hearts are open.

People: Love, come and shape our understanding!

*Please rise in body or spirit



This hymn paraphrases the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12), the opening portion of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Similar words of blessing also occur in the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20–23). Both sets of sayings reverse worldly values and offer a new understanding of God's ways.

1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.

Refrain:
Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

2 Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
they shall have their fill. (Refrain)

3 Blest are they who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
they shall see God. (Refrain)

4 Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
the glory of God is theirs. (Refrain)

5 Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice, be glad; yours is the
kingdom;
shine for all to see. (Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION



**Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways
to the glory of your holy name.**

(Silence for personal confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN #447

“We Are Forgiven”



We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

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

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (NRSVUE)

The voice of the Lord, powerful and full of majesty. **Thanks be to God.**



THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSVUE)

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Foolish God,
shaming the strong
through the weakness of love;
turning upside down
the wisdom of the world:
may your blessing dwell
with the poor and hungry,
the grieving and abused;
may your peaceful revolution
be our joy and our reward
through Jesus Christ, the power of God. Amen.



SERMON

“The New School: With Honors”

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



OFFERTORY

“You Do Not Walk Alone” by Elaine Hagenberg

*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



THE LORD'S SUPPER

See the back page of the hymnal

At Covenant, we believe the Lord's Supper is for everyone. From newborns to our most mature, all are welcome at this table. The Presbyterian Church teaches, "The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding" (Book of Order, W-3.049).

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

"Sunday" by Stephen Sondheim

*HYMN #753

"Prayer of St. Francis"



Though popular opinion credits this prayer to Francis of Assisi, the earliest known printing was in a French religious magazine in 1912. Yet that gentle saint's spirit seems evident in these words, a quality that has spurred many paraphrases and musical settings such as this one.

1 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

2 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

3 O, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

4 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reprise of "Prayer of St. Francis"

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

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Assisting in Worship Today:

Pete LuPiba – Liturgist

Brian Gray – Vocalist

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music & Technology

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

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



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



SOS FOOD PANTRY
VOLUNTEERS
WITH THE SUPPORT
OF THE
CONGREGATION'S
FOOD AND DOLLAR
DONATIONS

2025 STATS

- **233 DELIVERIES MADE**
- **558 ADULTS PROVIDED FOOD**
- **194 CHILDREN PROVIDED FOOD**
- **43% OF CLIENTS HAD CHILDREN IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD**





2025 Sunday coffee donations have provided funds for several of our church ministries including: Crop walk, SOS food pantry, socks & shoes for the shelter and 15 coats for the winter coat drive.

Thank you all!!

Join the Sunday Morning Baristas

THE GOAL: To serve the best coffee Sunday morning to keep our congregation attentive for service.

THE OBLIGATION: Serve great coffee once every 8 weeks [Training Provided!]

INTERESTED FOLKS: Contact Jude McLean or Crystal King

Thank You Charlie Bergman for 12 years of leadership!

PRAYER SHAWL

Join the Circle: experienced and novice knitters & crocheters welcome

OR

Request a Prayer Shawl!

JOY, CELEBRATION, SADNESS

MARRIAGE
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
GRADUATION
SPECIAL
ACCOMPLISHMENT

SURGERY
ACCIDENT
ILLNESS
DIFFICULT TIMES

Contact Louise Davidson or Nan Davidson if interested!

Like the shawls, prayers, surround you or those you love



PEANUT BRITTLE \$15 CASHEW BRITTLE \$20

AVAILABLE TO BE PURCHASED IN THE HALLWAY
BEFORE AND AFTER SERVICES



WEEKLY SERMON PODCAST



LISTEN ONLINE
covenantpcusa.org/podcasts



Pastor Joel Esala

covenant
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SAVE THE DATE

VBS 2026

JUNE 15 - 18, 9-11:30AM

AGES 3 YEARS - RISING 5TH GRADE

6TH GRADE - ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



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