

covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



February 8, 2026 – 10am

The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

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

PRELUDE

"This Little Light of Mine" arr. Hayes



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We breathe out

People: and the forest breathes in.

Leader: We reach out for help

People: and a friend picks up our call.

Leader: We feel low when the months are long

People: and the winter sun warms our faces.

Leader: We grapple for purpose

People: and mutual care grounds us in the everyday holy.

Leader: God, you are a Web of Love.

People: And we all belong in your Cosmic Care.

*Please rise in body or spirit



This is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt from an English translation of an early 19th-century German text may not convey how thoroughly the original deals with different kinds of time throughout the day. The tune was composed as a setting for this English text.

1 When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

2 Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

3 Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
from depth to height reply:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

4 Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION



You share your love with every people;
we draw limits of race and creed.

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

You immerse yourself in love of life;
we hold back in fear and shame.

Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

You change the water into wine;
we refuse to let our hearts be moved.

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

(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

Isaiah 58:1-9a (NRSVUE)

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



THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:13-20 (NRSVUE)

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Israel's jealous God,
giver of love's law,
in whom there is no blandness,
no dullness of oppression;
liberate us
from all that numbs compassion
to find in your commands
light undimmed
and flavour unrestrained;
through Jesus Christ, fulfiller of the law. Amen.



SERMON

"The New School: Strong Children"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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



INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



OFFERTORY

"Peace I Give to You" by Michael Podd

*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**

“You Belong”



1 In our light, in our darkness,
In our hopes, in our fears,
You have purpose here.
In our highs, in our lows
In our joys, in our sorrows,
In our rights, in our wrongs,
When we're weak and when we're strong,
In our story, in our song, you belong.

Refrain:

You belong just as you are,
Here in this place.
You are the image of God.
You belong, come raise your voice,
Come hear the word,
Listen to God, and know that you belong.

2 In your prayer, in your silence,
In your grief, in your tears,
God will hold you near.
In your strength, in your weakness,
In your storm, in your peace,
When you give all you can,
When you question where you stand,
When you hate what you see,
Growing pains have made you weak,
You are still given grace, you are justified by faith.
You still have a gift and song, you belong. (Refrain)

3 We on earth have no sorrow
That God cannot feel;
God will help us heal.
We are called in this place,
In our hearts, and in our faith;
To tell the story and the song; we belong.
Tell the story, sing the song; we belong.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reprise of "You Belong"

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

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Assisting in Worship Today:

Cathy Byrem – Liturgist

Ashley Woodard– Vocalist

Jeff Roland- Clarinet

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

SAVE THE DATE

VBS 2026

JUNE 15 - 18, 9-11:30AM

AGES 3 YEARS - RISING 5TH GRADE

6TH GRADE - ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED





INFORMATION UPDATE

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION & PREFERENCES WITH MEGAN!

- **DIGITALLY:**
follow the link Megan emailed to you or reply to her email
- **PHYSICALLY:**
forms available for Members and Friends at the reception desk and welcome table
- **IN PERSON/OVER THE PHONE:**
Call the office Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm and speak with Megan

PRAYER SHAWL

Join the Circle: experienced and novice
knitters & crocheters welcome

OR

Request a Prayer Shawl!

JOY, CELEBRATION, SADNESS

MARRIAGE	SURGERY
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION	ACCIDENT
GRADUATION	ILLNESS
SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT	DIFFICULT TIMES

✦ Contact Louise Davidson or Nan Davidson if interested!

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



WEEKLY SERMON PODCAST



LISTEN ONLINE
covenantpcusa.org/podcasts



Pastor Joel Esala

covenant
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



ASH WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 18 7PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY | APRIL 2 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 3 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 5 10AM



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