

Covenant Community Church

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023



We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship (from Psalm 19)

Leader: The heavens proclaim the glory of God.
The skies display his craftsmanship.

**People: Day after day they continue to speak;
night after night they make him known.**

Leader: They speak without a sound or word;
their voice is never heard.

**People: Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,
and their words to all the world...**

Leader: The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its
course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its
heat.

**People: The instructions of the Lord are perfect,
reviving the soul.**

Leader: The commandments of the Lord are right,
bringing joy to the heart.

**People: The commands of the Lord are clear,
giving insight for living.**

* Opening Song

Creator

* Opening Prayer and 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

We Hear The Word

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14 NLT[©]

^{4b} ... Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!

⁵ I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of

* *All who are able are invited to stand*

the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶ I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

⁷ I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:33-46 NLT[©]

³³ “Now listen to another story. A certain landowner planted a vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country. ³⁴ At the time of the grape harvest, he sent his servants to collect his share of the crop. ³⁵ But the farmers grabbed his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. ³⁶ So the landowner sent a larger group of his servants to collect for him, but the results were the same.

³⁷ “Finally, the owner sent his son, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’

³⁸ “But when the tenant farmers saw his son coming, they said to one another, ‘Here comes the heir to this estate. Come on, let's kill him and get the estate for ourselves!’ ³⁹ So they grabbed him, dragged him out of the vineyard, and murdered him.

⁴⁰ “When the owner of the vineyard returns,” Jesus asked, “what do you think he will do to those farmers?”

⁴¹ The religious leaders replied, “He will put the wicked men to a horrible death and lease the vineyard to others who will give him his share of the crop after each harvest.”

⁴² Then Jesus asked them, “Didn't you ever read this in the Scriptures?”

The stone that the builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.
This is the LORD's doing,
and it is wonderful to see.’

⁴³ I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce the proper fruit. ⁴⁴ Anyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone it falls on.”

⁴⁵ When the leading priests and Pharisees heard this parable, they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowds, who considered Jesus to be a prophet.

The word of the LORD. **Thanks be to GOD.**

*Song

Trust in You

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

*Closing Reflection

Mending Trauma (Kintsugi)

We Respond

Prayers of the People (Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*Offering Response (*please stand*)

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia.**

*Prayer of Dedication

We Are Sent into the World

*Benediction

*Benediction Response (please stand and turn to face each other as we sing)

**ALL: The LORD bless you and keep you,
the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious, gracious, gracious to you,
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you, give you, give you peace.**

Leader: Go in Peace, to Love and Serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Helping Us Worship

Pastor:

Guest Artist:

Scripture Reader:

Greeter:

Tech Team:

Rev. Jim Wilkens
Kimberly Mann Lyon
Marcia Morrell
Gordon & Josy Moore
Doug Morrell & Don Turner



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Announcements.

American Red Cross Blood Drive October 11, Noon-5:00 PM: *“Give the gift of life.”* Eligible donors can give blood here at Covenant Community Church. Giving blood through the Red Cross is safe, simple, and virtually painless. This event is sponsored by the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club. Go to the Red Cross website (<https://www.redcrossblood.org>), find Covenant Community Church, then register for a time slot.

CCC Fall Clean Up Day, Saturday October 14, 8:00 AM-Noon. Mark your calendar and plan to help if you are available. Come for all or part of the day. Coffee, juice and donuts will be available. There will be a list of projects posted in the Narthex prior to that day. Questions, talk with Wayne Border.

Essex Jericho Underhill Ecumenical Food Shelf Needs: The EJU Food Shelf is running low on pretty much everything! Our church is "mac and cheese and canned veggies". Any non-perishable food or cash donations are graciously accepted! Food or cash donations can once again be dropped off at church on the shelf next to the doors in the Narthex or at the food donation boxes at Hannafords, Price Chopper in Essex, or the Jericho Market. If you have any questions, talk with Susan T.

EJU Food Shelf Distribution, October 21, 9-10:30 AM at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Route 15, Jericho.

November 4—On Site Retreat for congregation. Information posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex by the kitchen.

Community Events offered at CCC – Additional information posted on bulletin board in the Narthex/Lobby outside the kitchen:

- Breath of Life Yoga classes, Mondays
- Beginning Tai Chi, October 5-December 21, 9:30-11:30 AM
- Yang 24 Tai Chi: Yang 24, October 3-December 19, 9:30-11:00 AM
- Nam Hoa Longevity Tree Qigong, October 4-December 20, 9:30-11:00 AM



The Evangelical Covenant Church

The unique character of the Covenant is expressed in the design of the logo - people united in Christ, people serving people in God's name, and people bringing people to Christ. The basis of the design is symbolic of four people facing north, south, east, and west. Note that each one's arms are outstretched, indicating the church's outreach in mission and service to the world. The four are part of the whole, yet their hands do not touch, symbolizing their unity in the freedom and evangelical warmth that characterizes the Covenant. The geometric arrangement of the four figures results in a cross-like pattern, representative of the center of our faith. The center circle symbolizes the unity and the bond of fellowship which we call "the Covenant."