

⁴³ Jesus responded, “Then why does David, speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit, call the Messiah ‘my Lord’? For David said,

⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit in the place of honor at my right hand
until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.’

⁴⁵ Since David called the Messiah ‘my Lord,’ how can the Messiah be his son?”

⁴⁶ No one could answer him. And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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

*Second Hymn #375 *Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated*

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

*Closing Hymn #266 *All Hail The Power of Jesus’ Name!*

We Respond

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

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*Offering Response:

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 & 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!

Covenant Community Church

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 29, 2023

JESUS REPLIED: “LOVE THE
LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL
YOUR MIND.’ THIS IS THE FIRST AND
GREATEST COMMANDMENT. AND THE
SECOND IS LIKE IT: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
‘LOVE AS YOURSELF.’”
MATTHEW
22:37-
39

We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (Psalm 1 NLT[©])

Leader: Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

People: But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

Leader: They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.

People: But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

Leader: They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly.

People: For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

*Opening Psalm

Psalm 1

*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

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 NLT[©]

¹ Then Moses went up to Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab and climbed Pisgah Peak, which is across from Jericho. And the Lord showed him the whole land, from Gilead as far as Dan; ² all the land

of Naphtali; the land of Ephraim and Manasseh; all the land of Judah, extending to the Mediterranean Sea; ³ the Negev; the Jordan Valley with Jericho—the city of palms—as far as Zoar. ⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have now allowed you to see it with your own eyes, but you will not enter the land.”

⁵ So Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, just as the Lord had said. ⁶ The Lord buried him in a valley near Beth-peor in Moab, but to this day no one knows the exact place. ⁷ Moses was 120 years old when he died, yet his eyesight was clear, and he was as strong as ever. ⁸ The people of Israel mourned for Moses on the plains of Moab for thirty days, until the customary period of mourning was over.

⁹ Now Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him, doing just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. ¹¹ The Lord sent him to perform all the miraculous signs and wonders in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, and all his servants, and his entire land. ¹² With mighty power, Moses performed terrifying acts in the sight of all Israel.

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:34-46 NLT[©]

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

³⁷ Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

⁴¹ Then, surrounded by the Pharisees, Jesus asked them a question:

⁴² “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

They replied, “He is the son of David.”

* All who are able are invited to stand

Announcements

Turkey-Syria | continued

donations. As God provided, MERATH was able to step in and provide much needed resources to hurt and displaced people following the disaster. As of April 1, MERATH had been able to reach 4,200 households with food, supplies for hygiene and basic needs, blankets, and winter

clothing. MERATH also equips the local church with resources to reach those in need. Like all our partners, MERATH will continue to be present when these events are no longer in the headlines but the suffering of vulnerable people continues.

IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM RELIEF: Why Support CWRD in Disaster Response?



When a disaster happens, the Evangelical Covenant Church responds. Covenant World Relief and Development (CWRD) works hard to facilitate immediate response through our partners on the ground. We are also committed to a long-term engagement through the recovery phase. Adam Edgerly, CWRD director, along with our team and Covenant leadership, discerns how we respond to disasters throughout the

world. The entire denominational team works together to get the word out to churches and individual donors. This is no small task. Our marketing and communications team works closely with CWRD to prepare press releases and communication to alert you to the need. The finance and advancement teams aid in the creation of wire transfers to our partners so funds can be used for the desired purpose. CWRD works with on-the-ground ministry partners to coordinate the initial and continuing funds and how they will be distributed. Our ministry partners, who are vetted and evaluated in an ongoing process, reach out to those in need.

So why support CWRD in disaster response?

When tragedies strike, your generosity, the CWRD team, and most of all, God's provision make a real difference to those in need.



100% of every gift to CWRD goes to ministry.
90% of every gift goes directly to ministry programs.
Learn more & give at CovChurch.org/cwrld

 @covenantworldreliefanddevelopment
 @covworldreliefanddevelopment



CCC Congregation Retreat, Saturday November 4, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM: Save the date--A One Day Christian Practices Retreat hosted by Jim and Chris Wilkens.

Warning--2023 CCC Annual Meeting, Sunday November 12. Please plan to stay after fellowship & coffee time for this meeting. The purpose will be approving a budget for 2024 and electing church members to eight positions: Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, Treasurer, three members of a nominating team, and one member-at-large for the Pastoral Relations Committee. There is currently no nominating team. Those willing to serve in any of these positions, please contact Pastor Jim or any member of the current Leadership team by Sunday November 5, 2023.

Upcoming Missional Opportunities

October-November 2023--Covenant World Relief: Covenant World Relief & Development (<https://covchurch.org/serve-globally/covenant-world-relief/>) works through local partners around the world to reduce human suffering for the most vulnerable people and support healthy communities. Lids and labels will be provided in order to convert a soup can into a coin bank to raise support for development and relief around the world. See insert in this Sunday's bulletin. Questions, talk with Wayne Border.



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November 2023 - Operation Christmas Child: The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations. Check out their website at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/mission-and-history>. This year CCC will participate in this ministry again. Questions, talk with Gary Coryer.

Community Announcements

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.

Helping Us Worship

Pastor:	Rev. Jim Wilkens
Scripture Reader:	Billie Hall
Greeter:	Karen Zidovsky
Tech Team:	Doug Morrell & Don Turner



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."

Learn more & give at CovChurch.org/cwrdr

CWRD UPDATE

SUMMER 2023

Earthquake Response | Turkey-Syria



On February 6 a series of earthquakes and aftershocks registering at 7.8 hit the region surrounding Turkey and Syria. The area was already dealing with food insecurity and fragile infrastructure in part due to 12 years of war and most recently the conflict in Ukraine. Geir O. Pedersen, special envoy of the secretary-general for Syria, said, "The earthquakes struck when affected people's needs were highest, when the economy was at its lowest, and when infrastructure was already

heavily damaged." These factors, along with frigid winter temperatures and storms, contributed to the astonishing death toll of more than 57,000. The earthquakes brought unprecedented devastation to the region.

Just six months before the earthquakes, Covenant World Relief and Development staff Adam Edgerly and Nils Clauson visited the Middle East. Through Jeff Anderson, regional coordinator for Middle East North Africa, they were introduced to a potential ministry partner. MERATH (Middle East Revive and Thrive) in Beirut, Lebanon, is a Christian organization that works alongside more than 50 churches and faith-based organizations in Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey. With its partners, MERATH distributes vital food assistance, much-needed winter items, and essential products to thousands of vulnerable households, especially those with young children. They also provide supporting health services.

When the earthquake hit, CWRD sprang into action and Covenanters responded with nearly \$200,000 in

PSALM 46:1-2 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way, and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.