

Covenant Community Church

All Saints Day

November 5, 2023

- 7 God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- 8 God blesses those whose hearts are pure,
for they will see God.
- 9 God blesses those who work for peace,
for they will be called the children of God.
- 10 God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

¹¹ “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

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

*Second Song *We Are One in the Spirit*

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

*Communion Hymn #113 *We Gather at Your Table*

Communion

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 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!



We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 34)

NLT[©]

Leader: I will praise the Lord at all times.
I will constantly speak his praises.
I will boast only in the Lord;
let all who are helpless take heart.

**People: Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness;
let us exalt his name together.**

Leader: I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me.
He freed me from all my fears.

**People: For the angel of the Lord is a guard;
he surrounds and defends all who fear him.**

Leader: Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

**People: Fear the Lord, you his godly people,
for those who fear him will have all they need.**

*Opening Hymn #341 *Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound*

*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

New Testament Reading

Revelation 7:9-17 NLT[©]

⁹ After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they were shouting with a great roar,

“Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne
and from the Lamb!”

**All who are able are invited to stand*

¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. ¹² They sang,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and strength belong to our God
forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the twenty-four elders asked me, “Who are these who are clothed in white? Where did they come from?”

¹⁴ And I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.

¹⁵ “That is why they stand in front of God's throne
and serve him day and night in his Temple.

And he who sits on the throne
will give them shelter.

¹⁶ They will never again be hungry or thirsty;
they will never be scorched by the heat of the sun.

¹⁷ For the Lamb on the throne
will be their Shepherd.

He will lead them to springs of life-giving water.
And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12 NLT[©]

¹ One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ² and he began to teach them.

³ “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

⁴ God blesses those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ God blesses those who are humble,
for they will inherit the whole earth.

⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they will be satisfied.

Community Announcements

Classes offered at Covenant Community Church: Information is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex/Lobby next to the kitchen.

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.



Reverend Jim Wilkens, Pastor
One Whitcomb Meadow Lane, Essex, VT 05452
pastorjim.covenantcommunityvt@gmail.com
(802) 355-9728 (Pastor Cell)
(802) 879-4313 (office)
admin@jerichocovenantchurch.org (office)



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."

Announcements

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.

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.

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.

Essex Jericho Underhill Ecumenical Food Shelf Next Distribution, Saturday November 18, 9-10:30 AM at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Route 15, Jericho. Please talk with Susan T. if you would like to help.

Helping Us Worship

Pastor:	Rev. Jim Wilkens
Scripture Reader:	Benita Lord
Communion Provider/Server:	Karen Zidovsky
Tech Team:	Doug Morrell & Don Turner