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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." (<https://covchurch.org>-)

## Covenant Community Church

24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023



## We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship (from Psalm 78 NLT<sup>©</sup>)

Leader: O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying, for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past—

**People: stories we have heard and known,  
stories our ancestors handed down to us.**

Leader: We will not hide these truths from our children;  
we will tell the next generation

**People: about the glorious deeds of the Lord,  
about his power and his mighty wonders.**

Leader: He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children.

**People: So each generation should set its hope anew on  
God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and  
obeying his commands.**

\*Opening Hymn #381 *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

\*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 (see insert) Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25 NLT<sup>©</sup>

\*All who are able are invited to stand

\*Gospel Reading (see insert) Matthew 25:1-13 NLT<sup>©</sup>

\*Second Hymn #433 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

\*Closing Hymn #113 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

## 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!**

## Helping Us Worship

Pastor:

Rev. Jim Wilkens

Scripture Reader:

Helen Hubbard

Tech Team:

Doug Morrell & Don Turner

**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

**Ecumenical Food Shelf Distribution, Saturday, November 18, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.**

**Essex Jericho Underhill Ecumenical Food Shelf Needs:** Our church is encouraged to donate "mac and cheese and canned veggies". If you have any questions, talk with Susan T.

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

- **Yoga classes on Mondays lead by Chris Wilkens**
- **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**

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25 NLT®

<sup>1</sup> Then Joshua summoned all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, including their elders, leaders, judges, and officers. So they came and presented themselves to God.

<sup>2</sup> Joshua said to the people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your ancestors, including Terah, the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River, and they worshiped other gods. <sup>3</sup> But I took your ancestor Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him into the land of Canaan. I gave him many descendants through his son Isaac...

<sup>14</sup>"So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. <sup>15</sup> But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

<sup>16</sup> The people replied, "We would never abandon the Lord and serve other gods. <sup>17</sup> For the Lord our God is the one who rescued us and our ancestors from slavery in the land of Egypt. He performed mighty miracles before our very eyes. As we traveled through the wilderness among our enemies, he preserved us. <sup>18</sup> It was the Lord who drove out the Amorites and the other nations living here in the land. So we, too, will serve the Lord, for he alone is our God."

<sup>19</sup> Then Joshua warned the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy and jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you abandon the Lord and serve other gods, he will turn against you and destroy you, even though he has been so good to you."

<sup>21</sup> But the people answered Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!"

<sup>22</sup> "You are a witness to your own decision, Joshua said. "You have chosen to serve the Lord."

"Yes, they replied, "we are witnesses to what we have said."

<sup>23</sup>“All right then, ”Joshua said, “destroy the idols among you, and turn your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

<sup>24</sup> The people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God. We will obey him alone.”

<sup>25</sup> So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day at Shechem, committing them to follow the decrees and regulations of the Lord.

\*Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:1-13 NLT<sup>©</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, <sup>4</sup> but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. <sup>5</sup> When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup> “At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’

<sup>7</sup> “All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. <sup>8</sup> Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’

<sup>9</sup> “But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’

<sup>10</sup> “But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. <sup>11</sup> Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’

<sup>12</sup> “But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’

<sup>13</sup> “So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

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

## Announcements

**TODAY--Coffee Time followed by 2023 CCC Annual Meeting, Sunday November 12.** You are invited to a *Sweet or Savory Pie Social* during coffee time preceding (and during) Annual Meeting today following the worship service!

The purpose of the meeting 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.

**Greeters, Cleaners and Communion Servers** are still needed. If you did not receive the link, or would like to be added to the list, please talk with Diane B. Thank you.

**SAVE THE DATE -- CHURCH GREENING, December 2:** As is our annual tradition here at CCC, we will gather together on December 2 in the evening to prepare for the Season of Advent. We will decorate the Sanctuary and Narthex. More information will be sent at a later date.

**Bible Study offered Sunday mornings at 9 AM:** You are invited to join us as we read and discuss scripture together. We meet in the church outer office or you can also join online.

## 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.