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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

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023



We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (Psalm 123 NLT[©])

Leader: I lift my eyes to you,
O God, enthroned in heaven.

**People: We keep looking to the Lord our God for his
mercy,**

Leader: just as servants keep their eyes on their master,
as a slave girl watches her mistress for the slightest
signal.

**People: Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy,
for we have had our fill of contempt.**

Leader: We have had more than our fill of the scoffing of the
proud

People: and the contempt of the arrogant.

*Opening Song *Hold On To Me*

*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 (see insert) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 NLT[©]

*Gospel Reading (see insert) Matthew 25:14-30 NLT[©]

*Second Hymn #75 *There Is a Redeemer*

*All who are able are invited to stand

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

*Closing Psalm

Psalm 123

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:

Scripture Reader:

Greeter:

Tech Team:

Rev. Jim Wilkens

Karen Zidovsky

Benita Lord

Doug Morrell & Don Turner

Community Announcements

Red Cross Blood Drive, Wednesday November 6, Noon -5 PM at Covenant Community Church: The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club will be sponsoring a Blood Drive from Noon-5 PM. There is always a need for blood so please consider donating. You can schedule an appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org> entering COVENANT in the search bar

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**

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 NLT[©]

¹ Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. ² For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. ³ When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.

⁴ But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. ⁶ So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. ⁷ Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. ⁸ But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

⁹ For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. ¹⁰ Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. ¹¹ So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30 NLT[©]

¹⁴ "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

¹⁶ "The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.

¹⁹ “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

²¹ “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

²² “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

²³ “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

²⁴ “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

²⁶ “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, ²⁷ why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

²⁸ “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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

Announcements

Operation Christmas Child: Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child will be collected TODAY–November 19. If you chose to fill your shoebox online, please be sure to add your label to the whiteboard in the Narthex. We’d love to know how many boxes we donate!

It’s time to order Poinsettias in memory of a loved one(s): An envelope is inserted in today’s bulletin. The cost is \$10 per poinsettia. Questions, talk with Billie H.

Bible Study Sunday Mornings at 9AM in the church office.

Covenant World Relief: Bring your CWR soup cans to church on Sunday, November 26. If you join us online, you can send a check to the church payable to CCC with Covenant World Relief on the Memo line.

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. Information is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Essex Jericho Underhill Ecumenical Food Shelf Needs: 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.