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Covenant Community Church

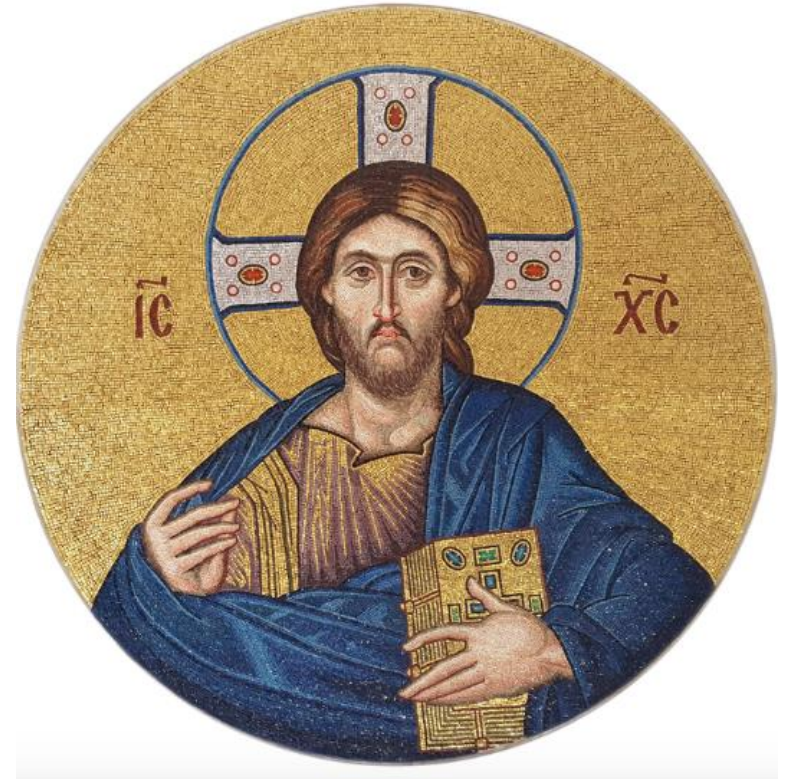
Christ the King Sunday

November 26, 2023



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."



We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 95) NLT ©

Leader: Come, let us sing to the Lord!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

**People: Let us come to him with thanksgiving.
Let us sing psalms of praise to him.**

Leader: For the Lord is a great God,
a great King above all gods.

**People: He holds in his hands the depths of the earth
and the mightiest mountains.**

Leader: The sea belongs to him, for he made it.
His hands formed the dry land, too.

**People: Come, let us worship and bow down.
Let us kneel before the Lord our maker,**

Leader: for he is our God. We are the people he watches over,
the flock under his care.

*Opening Chorus *Shout to the 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 Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24 NLT ©

* All who are able are invited to stand

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23 NLT ©

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:31-46 NLT ©

*Second Hymn #407

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

*Closing Hymn #750

Soon and Very Soon

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:

Alice Marsh & Josy Moore

Greeters:

Doug & Marcia Morrell

Tech Team:

Doug Morrell & Don Turner

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.

Food Shelf Distribution, Saturday December 16, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Route 15, Jericho, VT

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**

Community Announcements

Lions Club Red Cross Blood Drive, Wednesday December 6, Noon-5 PM at Covenant Community Church: The Jericho-Underhill Lions Club will be hosting 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. Such a wonderful way to remember others' gifts of blood.

Old Testament Reading Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24 NLT ©

¹¹ “For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search and find my sheep. ¹² I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. ¹³ I will bring them back home to their own land of Israel from among the peoples and nations. I will feed them on the mountains of Israel and by the rivers and in all the places where people live. ¹⁴ Yes, I will give them good pastureland on the high hills of Israel. There they will lie down in pleasant places and feed in the lush pastures of the hills. ¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and give them a place to lie down in peace, says the Sovereign Lord. ¹⁶ I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen the weak. But I will destroy those who are fat and powerful. I will feed them, yes—feed them justice!

²⁰ “Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will surely judge between the fat sheep and the scrawny sheep

²¹ For you fat sheep pushed and butted and crowded my sick and hungry flock until you scattered them to distant lands.

²² So I will rescue my flock, and they will no longer be abused. I will judge between one animal of the flock and another. ²³ And I will set over them one shepherd, my servant David. He will feed them and be a shepherd to them. ²⁴ And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be a prince among my people. I, the Lord, have spoken!

Epistle Reading Ephesians 1:15-23 NLT ©

¹⁵ Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God’s people everywhere, ¹⁶ I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, ¹⁷ asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. ¹⁸ I pray that your hearts will be

flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³ And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:31-46 NLT©

³¹ “But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne ³² All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

³⁷ “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? ³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

⁴⁰ “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’

⁴¹ “Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. ⁴² For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. ⁴³ I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.’

⁴⁴ “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’

⁴⁵ “And he will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’

⁴⁶ “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

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

Announcements

November 26, 2023 -- Covenant World Relief: Place your soup cans in the offering basket. Covenant World Relief & Development works through local partners around the world to reduce human suffering for the most vulnerable people and support healthy communities. Questions, talk with Wayne.

CHURCH GREENING, December 2 at 4:30 PM: As is our annual tradition here at CCC, we will gather together on Saturday December 2 to prepare for the Season of Advent. We will decorate the Sanctuary and Narthex. Hot chocolate and cookies will be available. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex if you want to bring cookies.