

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith

**In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah
chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage. Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, *including Concerns and Celebrations*

OFFERING

Learning on the Everlasting Arms

arr. Marianne Kim

*PRAISE HYMN 716 "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" BEACH SPRING

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN 15
(verses 1-4)

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN 765 "May the God of Hope Go with Us" ARGENTINA

**May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and
joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light
and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a
world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

Called Congregational Meeting Immediately Following Worship.



The Sower (Sower with Setting Sun)

[Vincent van Gogh](#) 1888; Arles, Bouches-du-Rhône, France

July 16, 2023

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1065 Gaines School Road

Athens, Ga 30605

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

July 16, 2023

7th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PREPARATION

Dix

arr., Joel Rainey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

Awinayehun

Yoruba language Worship Song

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us offer our praise to God,
for we come to learn God's ways:

**O God, your word is a lamp to our feet,
a light to our path;
we lift our hearts to you
as we seek to worship, adore, and follow you.**

*HYMN 14

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

DIX

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
O God, we are quick to say,

"We didn't know. We didn't mean to. We didn't expect that to happen."

But we have not tended the soil of our lives.

We let it stay shallow and rocky by not learning from the experience of others.

We let it be riddled with thorns by succumbing to our own prejudices.

**Help us to tend our soil. Open us to being challenged, enable us to learn,
so that your word will take root and bear good fruit in our lives. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*RESPONSE HYMN 582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" GLORY TO GOD

(Verse 1) **Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55: 10-13

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

PROCLAMATION

Dana Waters

*HYMN 288
(singing 2 x's)

"Spirit of the Living God"

LIVING GOD