



December 29, 2024
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Ga 30605
www.covpresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: WHITE Covenant Youth Alumni Sunday 11:00am Worship

1st Sunday of Christmas

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PREPARATION

*In the Bleak Midwinter
How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

Larry Shackley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

Sing We Now of Christmas

Traditional French Carol
arr., K.L. Phillips

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

Hope has come—

awakening us to new possibilities.

Peace has come—

inviting us to be agents of reconciliation.

Joy has come—

turning our hearts from fear to wonder.

Love has come—

transforming our lives, transforming our world.

We have come—

amazed and humbled by God's grace,

to worship Christ, the newborn king!

*HYMN 143

"Angels, from the Realms Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

Holy God, you are the Light of the World. Yet, too often, we shroud your light with our indifference. There is much we must confess: When we turn a blind eye to suffering, forgive us. When we are silent in the face of injustice, forgive us. When we choose comfort over compassion, forgive us. When we neglect to offer grace and love, forgive us. Gracious God, you entered into our broken world and made a home among the desperate and despairing. Give us eyes to see you in the faces of those whose vulnerability frightens us. Give us the will to care for our neighbors in need. Illumine the shadows of our lives with your light — which the most persistent darkness cannot overcome — and open our hearts to receive your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the newborn king. *(Silent prayers of confession)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS *(Responsive)*

Hear the promise of the Lord:

See, our salvation has come!

We are a holy people, redeemed by God;

We have been sought out, and not forsaken.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*GLORIA 582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me" GLORY TO GOD
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.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

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

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 63: 7—9

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2: 22—38

PROCLAMATION *A Conversation with Youth Alumni, facilitated by Rev. Tom Buchanan*

*HYMN 147

"The First Nowell"

THE FIRST NOWELL

(verses 1, 2 & 6)

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Jesus Light of the World

Mark Patterson

*DOXOLOGY 606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 136

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN 384

"Soon and Very Soon"

Andrae Crouch

Verse 1: **Soon and very soon, we are gonna see the King** (3x)

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are gonna see the King!

Verse 2: **No more cryin' there, we are gonna see the King** (3x)

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are gonna see the King! (repeat Verse 1)

*POSTLUDE

Aire Varie on a Theme by Weigl, Op 89, No. 5

Charles Dandla

All Music Rights Reserved. OneLicense.net #A714395

*denotes standing as able.

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Aaron Carter-Enyi

PIANIST: Betsy Burmeister

WORSHIP LEADERS: Cortney Combs-Baker, Wyatt Herndon, Lila McMaster,

Christina Noel Reaves, Elizabeth Hale Watkins

MUSIC: Cortney, Timothy and Scott Baker, Christina Noel Reaves, Elizabeth Hale Watkins