

Emmanuel

GOD WITH US



*December 21, 2025
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Ga. 30605
www.coupresathens.org*

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: PURPLE

11:00am Worship

4th Sunday of Advent

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PREPARATION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

Bagatelle, OP. 126, No. 3

Beethoven

*LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

The Green Dream Team

The prophet spoke to a people called chosen,
to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope.

**Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth,
to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.**

Mary went to a place called Bethlehem,
to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love.

**As we light our fourth Advent candle,
we rejoice with Mary, for Love takes flesh.**

(The Advent Candle of Love is lit)

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Love.

*HYMN 108

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)* Faithful God, you speak in ways we do not always expect — in silence, in dreams, in holy interruptions. Yet we confess that we are often afraid to listen. We cling to what feels proper, predictable, and safe. We judge too quickly what we do not understand, and we resist the grace that disrupts our assumptions and unsettles our control. Forgive us when we mistake fear for righteousness. Open our hearts to your Spirit's whisper, and give us courage to trust your unfolding Dream. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

Hear the good news: Do not be afraid. God is with us.

What the world calls scandal, God calls salvation.

What we fear as disruption, God reveals as grace.

In the holy child, love takes flesh, hope finds a home, and mercy has the final word.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*PRAISE HYMN 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

(VERSE 4) **O come, thou root of Jesus, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p. 623) Isaiah 7: 10—14

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p.879) Matthew 1: 18-25

PROCLAMATION

The Stuff That Dreams Are Made Of

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 105

"People, Look East"

BESANCON

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)** We believe in God, who dreams of justice and peace, and who will not abandon creation. We believe in Jesus Christ, born of Mary, named Emmanuel — God with us — who enters the world not through power, but through vulnerability and love. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who speaks in dreams and visions, who calls us beyond fear, and who invites us into God’s unfolding future. We trust that God is still at work, still speaking, still drawing the world toward healing and hope. This is our faith. This is the Dream we live by. Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER (*Unison*)

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 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

A Christmas Hallelujah

Cohen/Naphash

***DOXOLOGY 609** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word and Spirit one. Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 110

“Love Has Come”

BRING A TORCH

*CHARGE & BENEDECTION

*SENDING HYMN 384

“Soon and Very Soon”

Andrae Crouch

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

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are gonna see the King!

Verse 3: **No more dying there, we are going to see the King.** (3 x’s)

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King repeat verse 1

*POSTLUDE

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* denotes standing as able.

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

LITURGIST: Lisa Buchanan

PIANO SOLO: Richard Zimdars

PRAISE BAND: Mary Barnett, Quintina Carter-Enyi, Nderitu Kiragu, Donnie Lindsey, Winnie Mburu, voices

Donny Whitehead, sax Bill Rigsby, Bass Karl Barnett, Rich Kimmich, drums

SOLOIST: Quintina Carter-Enyi, Winnie Mburu