



Not Far — *from* — Each of Us

Acts 17:27

May 10, 2026

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1065 Gaines School Road

Athens, Ga 30605

www.covpresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: WHITE

11:00am Worship

6th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day/Graduates Recognition

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY *I've Got the Joy Down in My Heart* arr., Valerie W. Stephenson

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Come, all who are searching, all who are wondering,
all who are carrying questions too deep for easy answers.

**We come to worship the God
in whom we live and move and have our being.**

Come, all who stand at thresholds —
all who are stepping into new seasons of life.

**We come to worship the God
who goes before us, beside us, and behind us.**

Come, all whose hearts are tender today —
with gratitude, grief, longing, joy, or complicated love.

**We come to worship the God
who is nearer than breath, whose mercy holds us all.**

Beloved of God, the risen Christ meets us here.
The Spirit is already moving among us.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN 14

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

DIX

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of life and breath, you have made us for communion with you and with all your beloved creation. Yet we confess that we give our hearts to things that cannot finally give life. We worship achievement and forget that our worth is not earned. We worship image and forget the beauty of truth. We worship certainty and close ourselves to humility. We worship belonging at any price and let our compassion shrink to fit the tribe. Forgive us, Holy One. Teach us to see carefully, to listen generously, and to speak with courage and grace. Free us from lesser gods, that we may live more fully in the love of the One in whom we live and move and have our being. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. [*Silent prayers of confession*]

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*responsive*)

Before we search for God, God has already come near to us.

Before we understand grace, grace is already holding us.

Before we know how to pray, the Spirit is already breathing within us.

In Jesus Christ, we are met by mercy, raised into new life, and set free to love.

My friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*RESPONSE 591

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!"

HALLE, HALLE

(SINGING 2 X'S)

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible pp.502-503) Psalm 40: 1-8

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible pp. 1012-1013) Acts 17: 16-34

PROCLAMATION

Not Far from Each of Us

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 44

"Like a Mother Who has Borne Us"

Bechtel/Rowan

RECOGNITION OF 2026 GRADUATES

High School: *Thomas Bowden, Claire Bruner, and Jacob Page*

College: *Hannah Barnett, Cullen Bruner, Lily Herndon, and Lila McMaster*

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*) *Adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith*
We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, of every race and people, to live as one community. 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. 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

The Bells of St. Andrew's

Craig Laumann

*DOXOLOGY 609 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Wren/Hopson
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 488

"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

WATERLIFE

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN 600

"Amen"

AMEN

Amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

*POSTLUDE

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MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi
HANDBELL CHOIR under the direction of David Boardman

* denotes standing as able.
LITURGIST: Kirche Rogers