



*February 22, 2026  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
1065 Gaines School Road  
Athens, Georgia 30605  
[www.coupresathens.org](http://www.coupresathens.org)*

# COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: PURPLE

11:00am Worship

First Sunday in Lent

## GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

*Sanctuary*

Carrie Newcomer

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit leads us into the wilderness—  
not to abandon us, but to help us clarify who we are.

**We come marked with ash, reminded that we are dust,  
and that we belong to God.**

Before we prove anything, before we accomplish anything,  
God names us Beloved.

**In the wilderness and in the sanctuary, in hunger and in hope,  
God remains faithful.**

Let us praise the One who calls us Beloved and leads us into life.

**Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN 687

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ST. ANNE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Beloved God, you have named us yours before we could earn it, before we could prove it, before we could fail. Yet we confess that we do not trust this gift. When we feel exposed, we grasp for control. When we feel hungry, we grasp for quick satisfaction. When we feel uncertain, we demand visible proof. When power beckons, we are tempted to bow to what promises security. Forgive us. In this season of wilderness, strip away what is false in us. Teach us again to trust your word. Root our identity not in fear, but in your Love. Through Christ, who was tempted and yet remained faithful, we pray. [*Silent prayers of confession*]**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

Hear the good news:

Before the wilderness, before the testing, before the cross—  
God said, "You are my Beloved."

That word has not been withdrawn.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and renamed.  
We do not walk this road alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

\*GLORIA 423

(*verse 1*)

"Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God"

SARADAY

**Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
create in me a clean heart, O God;  
create in me a clean heart, O God;  
and renew a right spirit with in me**

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible pp. 1029 - 1030) Romans 5: 12 - 19

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p. 881) Matthew 4: 1 - 11

PROCLAMATION

*Into the Wilderness*

Rev. Tom Buchanan

\*HYMN 165

"The Glory of These Forty Days"

ERHALT UNS, HERR

## RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**We believe that we are created from dust and animated by the breath of God. We believe that before we accomplish anything, God names us Beloved. We believe that the wilderness is not abandonment, but a place of learning trust. We believe that Jesus faced temptation and refused every shortcut to power. We believe that we follow him not to prove our worth, but because we already belong. And we trust that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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                      *Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley*                      arr., Carter-Enyi

\*DOXOLOGY 710                      "We Lift Our Voices"                      OFFERING

**We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 833                      "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"                      ST. MARGAREET

### \*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\*SENDING HYMN 541                      "God Be With You Until We Meet Again"                      RANDOLPH  
**God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.**

### \*POSTLUDE

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\* denotes standing as able.

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

LITURGIST: Kirche Rogers

ADULT CHOIR    SOLOIST: Lisa Buchanan    CLARINET: Jason Roberts