



February 08, 2026
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Ga 30605
www.coupresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

11:00am Worship

5th Sunday after Epiphany

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

INTROIT

The Lord is My light and Salvation

John A. Behnke

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

Faith

Paul McKlveen

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who are weary from worry,
all who carry fear for the future.

God invites us to breathe deeply again.

Come, all who hunger for a world made right,
all who long for mercy, truth, and peace.

God's blessing rests upon such longing.

Come, all who feel poor in spirit,
uncertain, tired, or overwhelmed.

The realm of heaven belongs to these.

Come, let us gather not in fear, but in trust.

Let us praise the Lord who blesses us into courage and steadies us with grace.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN 610

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

AZMON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Unison* Faithful God, we confess that we are often ruled by fear. We worry there will not be enough — enough security, enough certainty, enough future. We cling to what we have, mistaking control for wisdom and anxiety for realism. We grow suspicious of neighbors, we harden our hearts against suffering, we grow weary of hoping. Forgive us for the ways fear has narrowed our love and diminished our trust in you. Release us from the false gospel of scarcity. Restore in us the deep confidence that we are held, that your grace is sufficient, and that your blessing is already at work among us. We offer now our silent prayers, naming the fears we carry and the trust we long to reclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *[Silent prayers of confession]*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

Hear the good news:

God does not begin with condemnation, but with blessing.

God does not meet our fear with judgment, but with mercy.

**In Jesus Christ, we are freed from the tyranny of fear
and invited into the spacious life of trust.**

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

*PRAISE HYMN 587

(*singing 2 x's*)

"Alleluia!"

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p. 1073) Philippians 4: 4-13

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p. 882) Matthew 5: 1-12

PROCLAMATION

An Un-Anxious Church in an Anxious Society

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 401

"Here In This Place"

GATHER US IN

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

We trust in God, whose love is not scarce and whose mercy does not run out. We trust in Jesus Christ, who blesses the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, and all who hunger for righteousness. We trust in the Holy Spirit, who frees us from fear and teaches us to live with courage, integrity, and compassion. We believe that God's realm is near, that blessing is stronger than anxiety, and that love — not fear — has the final word. Amen.

RECOGNITION AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE REV. AMY BAER, COORDINATOR OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION MINISTRIES

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

Thee We Adore

arr., Margaret R. Tucker

*DOXOLOGY 607 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" OLD ONE HUNDRETH
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 65

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

CWM RHONDDA

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN 377 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" HOUSTON
(verse 1) **I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

*POSTLUDE

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* denotes standing as able.

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

LITURGIST: Lisa Buchanan

ADULT CHOIR

HANDBELL CHOIR under the direction of David Boardman