



*March 01, 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

Second Sunday in Lent/Holy Communion

## GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

*God So Loved the World*

John Stainer

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, you who come by night,  
you who carry questions you cannot ask in daylight.

Come, you who have built careful lives  
yet sense the Spirit stirring something deeper.

**The wind of God blows where it will —  
sometimes unsettling, sometimes consoling, always alive.**

**We do not control the Spirit,  
but we can open ourselves to its movement.**

For God so loved the world — not to condemn it,  
but to heal it, renew it, and make it new.

**Let us praise the Lord who indeed works in mysterious ways!  
Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN 320

"The Church of Christ in Every Age"

WAREHAM

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

**Holy and Loving God, you breathe life into us again and again, yet we cling to what feels safe and familiar. We confess that we prefer manageable change to the deep transformation your Spirit brings. We seek improvement rather than new birth. We cling to control rather than trust your wind. We confess that we sometimes hide in the night — guarding our reputations, protecting our certainty, resisting the vulnerability of being made new. Forgive us, God of mercy. Loosen what is rigid in us. Soften what has grown hard. Open us to the movement of your Spirit. For you did not send your Son to condemn the world, but to save it — and to save us. In Christ's name we pray.**

*[Silent prayers of confession]*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the Beloved Son -

**Not to condemn the world, but that the world might be healed and made whole.**

There is no condemnation in Christ

**Only mercy strong enough to make us new.**

My friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

\*RESPONSE 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 9) Genesis 12: 1-5a

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p.970) John 3: 1-17

PROCLAMATION

*Mysterious Ways*

Rev. Tom Buchanan

\*HYMN 291

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

SPIRIT

## RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

### OFFERING

#### PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNION ELEMENTS

What do you bring to the Lord's Table?

**The gifts of God for the people of God.**

**Thanks be to God.**

#### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER including concerns and celebrations

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**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.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION/SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*Server:* The body of Christ was broken for you. *Served:* Thanks be to God.

*Server:* The blood of Christ was shed for you. *Served:* Thanks be to God.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*HYMN 649                      "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"                      AMAZING GRACE

#### \*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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MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi      ADULT CHOIR

GUEST MUSICIAN: David Aina

\* denotes standing as able.

LITURGIST: Luanne Rigsby