

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

We believe in God, the source of light and life, who sees every person with compassion and calls the world toward justice and mercy. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Light of the Wo0rld, who turned toward those others overlooked, who restored dignity where there was shame, and who showed us that love is stronger than blame. In his life, death, and resurrection we see the mercy of God made visible. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes to grace and calls us to bear witness with humility and courage. We may not know every answer, but we know this: that once we were blind, and now we see. So we commit ourselves to walk in the light of Christ, to see our neighbors with compassion, and to make God's love visible in the world. 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

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 452 *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

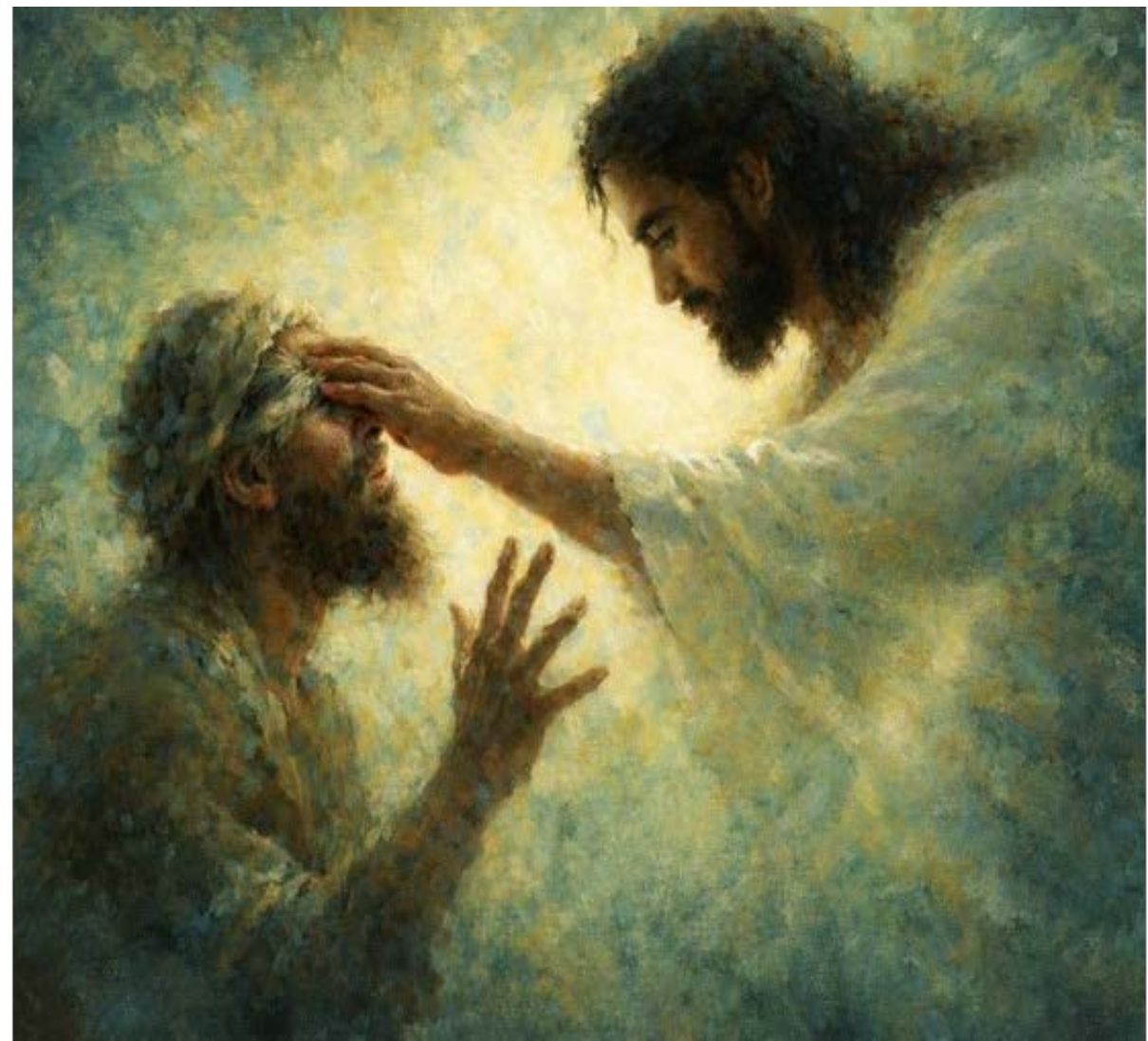
*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*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

* denotes standing as able.
LITURGIST: Jim Anderson



March 15, 2026
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Georgia 30605
www.coupresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: PURPLE

11:00 am Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY *He Looked Beyond My Fault*

Dottie Rambo

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God,

for the One who formed light from darkness

still opens eyes that cannot yet see.

Where the world seeks blame,

Christ brings mercy.

Where the world demands certainty,

Christ offers grace.

Where the world argues and divides,

Christ restores sight and dignity,

Come, let us open our eyes to the presence of the Lord among us.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

(insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of light and truth, you open our eyes to a world filled with wonder, yet we confess that we often choose not to see. We rush to explain suffering rather than respond with compassion. We search for someone to blame rather than someone to love. We cling to certainty rather than humbly seeking truth. Forgive us when we overlook those who are struggling. Forgive us when our assumptions blind us to the dignity of others. Forgive us when fear keeps us from recognizing the grace you are already working in our midst. Open our eyes again, O God. Restore our vision, that we may see our neighbors with mercy, see our world with hope, and see your Spirit at work among us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. [Silent prayers of confession]

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (Responsive)

Hear the good news:

The One who opens blind eyes also opens hardened hearts.

The mercy of God is greater than our failures, and the grace of Christ restores what we cannot repair.

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 423 *Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God*

SARADAY

Create in me a clean heart, O God: create in me a clean 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

Ephesians 5:8-14 (Pew Bible p.1069)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-41 (Pew Bible p. 978-979)

PROCLAMATION

One Thing I Know

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 450

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS