

MY PRAYER FOR ALL WHO  
WILL EVER BELIEVE IN ME • O H N  
that  
THEY  
WILL  
BE

May 17, 2026

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1065 Gaines School Road

Athens, Ga 30605

[www.covpresathens.org](http://www.covpresathens.org)

# COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: WHITE

11:00am Worship

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

## GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

VOLUNTARY *Medley of Heavenly Father/Holy Spirit/Into His Presence/Majesty*  
arr., David Aina

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Before we ever turned toward Christ in prayer, Christ prayed for us.

**Before we knew what to ask, Christ held us in love.**

On a night of betrayal, fear, and violence,

**Jesus prayed that we might be one.**

Not one in sameness, or by pretense,

**but truly made one in the very heart of God.**

In this Easter season, with Pentecost breath drawing near,

we gather as many members, many stories, many voices —

**one body, one hope, one Spirit, one love in Jesus Christ.**

**Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN 757

"Today, We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

KINGSFOLD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Holy and gracious God, in Christ you draw us into your own life, into the love that was before the foundation of the world, into the mercy that bends low to wash feet, into the glory that is revealed in self-giving love. Yet we confess that we often resist the oneness for which Christ prayed. We confuse unity with comfort. We settle for politeness when you call us to communion. We avoid difficult truths in the name of peace, and we sometimes use truth without tenderness. Forgive us, O God. Forgive the borders we draw around your grace. Forgive the wounds we ignore, the reconciliation we postpone, and the love we withhold. By the power of the risen Christ, make us one — not by making us all the same, but by rooting us more deeply in you. Teach us to tell the truth with love, to seek justice with humility, and to forgive without pretending. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. [*Silent prayers of confession*]

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*responsive*)

Hear the good news: Christ prays for us still.

**The love that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us even now.**

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

(SINGING 2 X'S)

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!"

HALLE, HALLE

**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 p. 1068) Ephesians 4: 1 - 6

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible pp. 987-988) John 17: 20 - 26

PROCLAMATION

*What Really Makes Us One*

Rev. Tom Buchanan

\*HYMN 298

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

ABBOT'S LEIGH

## RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

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

**We believe in the God whose love gathers what fear has scattered. We believe in Jesus Christ, who prayed for us before we knew how to pray, who loved us to the end, and who draws us into the life of God. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who makes us one — not by erasing our differences, but by binding us together in grace, truth, and love. We believe the church is called to be a sign of Christ's communion: many members, one body; many gifts, one Spirit; many stories, one hope. In life and in death, in joy and in struggle, we belong to God and to one another in Christ. 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

*Andante*

Muzio Clementi

\*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 300

"We Are One in the Spirit"

Peter Scholtes

### \*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

### \*SENDING HYMN 600

"Amen"  
**Amen, amen.  
Amen, amen, amen.**

AMEN

### \*POSTLUDE

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\* denotes standing as able.

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

LITURGIST: Jim Anderson

GUEST MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: David Aina PRAISE BAND: Donny Whitehead, sax,  
Albert Rinaudo, guitar, Bill Rigsby, bass, Donnie Lindsey, drums