

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

We believe in the God who loosens the bonds of injustice, who sets the oppressed free, and who calls us to bear one another's burdens. We believe in Jesus Christ, who took the form of a servant, who touched the sick and ate with outcasts, who carried the cross so that we might know life. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us courage to resist evil, strength to practice justice, and love to lighten the loads of our neighbors. This is our faith. This is the gospel we will live. Thanks be to God. 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 609 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" LASST UNS ERFREUEN
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 "This Little Light of Mine" Public Domain
**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine...
[Piano Interlude] Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine...
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...
[Sax Interlude] This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...**

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN 853 "We Are Marching in the Light of God" SIYAHAMBA
**We are marching in the light of God; We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching, Oh! We are marching in the light of God.**

*POSTLUDE

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MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

ADULT CHOIR

PRAISE BAND: Brandon & Laura Foskey, Quintina Carter-Enyi, Winnie Mburu, vocals

Nderitu Kiragu, guitar Donny Whitehead, saxophone Jason Roberts, bass Donnie Lyndsey, drums

* denotes standing as able.

LITURGIST: Sandy Whitney



*September 21, 2025
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Ga 30605
www.coupresathens.org*

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

11:00am Worship

15th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PREPARATION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

Here I Am to Worship

Tim Hughes

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

Come, all you who are bent low with heavy loads.

We come, trusting in the One who gives rest to the weary.

Come, all you who are shackled by debt, by fear, by injustice.

We come, hoping in the One who sets captives free.

Come, all you who long for a lighter world.

**We come, following Christ, who bears our burdens,
and calls us to bear one another's.**

Let us sing to the one who turns sorrow into joy!

Let us worship God!

*HYMN 452

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

OPEN THE EYES

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

God of grace and compassion, you have called us to loosen the bonds of injustice, to lift the weight of oppression, to share bread with the hungry and rest with the weary. But we confess that we are slow to respond. We cling to what we think is ours. We pass by neighbors carrying heavy loads. We ignore the cries of the poor, the lonely, the overworked, the afraid. Forgive us, Lord. Unburden our hearts from selfishness and fear. Teach us to live as people set free, and send us to lighten the loads of others, in the name of Jesus Christ. *(Silent prayers of confession)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS *(Responsive)*

Hear the good news:

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In Christ, our chains are broken, our sins are forgiven, our lives made new.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*PRAISE HYMN 582 "Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines On Me" VASILE

1. Glory to God whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

2. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

LISEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58: 9b-12

(Pew Bible p. 675)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 16: 1-13

(Pew Bible pp. 955-956)

PROCLAMATION

Lighten the Load

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 465

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

CONVERSE