



*January 4th, 2026
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Ga 30605
www.coupresathens.org*

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: WHITE

11:00am Worship

Holy Communion
Second Sunday after Christmas/ Epiphany Sunday
GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Nations come to the light, and travelers follow a star through the dark.

From distant places, from unfamiliar paths, God gathers seekers and dreamers.

Come, you who are curious. Come, you who are uncertain. Come, you who are carrying hope and fear together.

The light still shines. The journey still matters.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN 151

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

J. H. Hopkins, Jr

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Faithful God, you place a light before us, but we confess that we do not always follow. We prefer what is familiar to what is faithful. We cling to certainty when you call us into trust. We turn away from those who live on the margins, forgetting that you were born among the vulnerable and revealed yourself to outsiders and strangers. Forgive us for the ways we close our hearts, harden our compassion, or settle for safe answers instead of courageous hope. Lead us again by your light. Give us the grace to say yes – even when the road is unclear, even when the cost feels real. 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 light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

God meets us not with condemnation, but with grace that goes ahead of us.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited forward.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*PRAISE HYMN 113

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

GLORIA

(verse 1) **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60: 1-6
(p. 676 of pew bible)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2: 1-12
(pp. 879—880 of pew bible)

PROCLAMATION

Just Say Yes

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 150

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

DIX

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 147

"The First Nowell"

THE FIRST NOWELL

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN 110

"Love Has Come"

BRING A TORCH

(verse 1)

**Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shine forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!
Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

*POSTLUDE

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MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi
PIANIST: Betsy Burmeister

* denotes standing as able.
LITURGIST: Pam Knox