



Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, GA 30605
www.covpresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: Purple

March 23, 2025

11:00am Worship

3rd Sunday in Lent

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PREPARATION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Wonderful Grace of Jesus

Haldor Lillenas

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Spring is soon to break forth!

All around, a new beginning is at hand!

Feel the wonder and power of God's creative energy

Feel the awe and joy of God's love for us.

Let us enter this place with a full sense of expectation.

Let us open our hearts, our minds, our souls, to God's lavish love.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN 664**

"Morning Has Broken"

BUNESSAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

Holy Source of new life and new beginnings, you promise to set us free from paths of fear, doubt, and denial. Yet we resist your invitation, seeing only what we must give up if we are to follow the path of Jesus. You call us to have faith in your sustaining presence and power, but your call takes us beyond anything we can see or touch. We fear placing our trust in things beyond our control. We doubt that you can bring water to the dry places of our lives or replace our suffering with joy. Forgive us when we turn away from your promise of abundant life. Heal us and lead us home, Holy One. In Jesus' name we pray. *(Silent prayers of confession)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS *(Responsive)*

Whenever we seek to leave behind our old ways and turn to God for help,
God forgives our faithlessness and strengthens us for the journey ahead.
We are the heirs of God's promises.

We are the children of God's compassion and mercy.

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

*PRAISE HYMN 423 "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 within me.**

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

II Corinthians 5: 16-21

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43: 14-21

PROCLAMATION

A New Beginning

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 744

"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

FESTAL SONG

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

We are not alone – we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

Without His Cross

Joseph M. Martin

*DOXOLOGY 710

“We Lift Our Voices”

OFFERING

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours; we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are; all that we hope to be; we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering, we are an offering.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 547

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

AR HYDY NOS

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN 541

“God Be with You Till 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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* denotes standing as able.

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Aaron Carter-Enyi

LITURGIST: Pam Knox

ADULT CHOIR

MORE THAN FOUR QUARTET: Jim Anderson, Betsy Burmeister, Kathryn Fowler, Rich Reaves, & Linda Rogers

Join us after worship in the gathering room—enjoy fellowship, a warm cup of coffee, and perhaps a sweet treat!