



*August 24, 2025*  
*Covenant Presbyterian Church*  
*1065 Gaines School Road*  
*Athens, Ga 30605*  
*[www.coupresathens.org](http://www.coupresathens.org)*

# COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

11:00am Worship

11th Sunday after Pentecost

**GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

PREPARATION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Minute for Mission  
Athens Area Diaper Bank Erin Campbell

VOLUNTARY *Make Me a Servant* Kelly Willard

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

Come, beloved of God—

**the One who sees us as we are,  
who bends low to lift us high.**

Come, children of Abraham and Sarah—

**heirs of God's promises,  
called to stand tall in the Spirit's freedom.**

Come, people of Christ—

**where religion has wounded, Love restores;  
where fear has bound, Grace releases.**

**Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN 645 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" MIT FREUDEN SART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

**Merciful God, you see us when we are bent down by burdens, yet we confess that too often we add to the weight others are forced to carry. We cling to rules that exclude, habits that wound, and silences that betray your love. We pity when you call us to act. We protect our comfort while your children cry out. Forgive us, O God. Set us free from fear and pride, and make us partners in your healing justice, until all your children can stand tall in dignity and joy. 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 sees us, calls us, and touches us with grace.

**We are set free from what binds us.**

**We are raised up to walk in newness of life.**

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 591

"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

Isaiah 58: 9b-14

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13: 10-17

PROCLAMATION

*Which Side Are We On?*

Rev. Tom Buchanan

\*HYMN 753

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

## RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

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

**We believe in God, who sees us in our weakness and calls us to stand tall, who sets us free from what binds us and restores us as children of promise. We believe in Jesus Christ, who chose the side of the hurting, who healed even when it was forbidden, who challenged powers that oppressed, and proclaimed love stronger than fear. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who breathes justice into dry places, who opens our eyes to the wounds of our neighbors, and who leads us to join God's work of healing and restoration. We believe the gospel is love made public, justice lived out, and freedom offered to all creation. 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

*Dare To Do Right*

William Moulton

\*DOXOLOGY 608 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" HOPSON  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### \*HYMN 157

"I Danced in the Morning"

LORD OF THE DANCE

### \*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\*SENDING HYMN 546 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" SICILIAN MARINERS  
(verse 1) **Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us,  
traveling through this wilderness.**

### \*POSTLUDE

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MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi  
ADULT CHOIR  
Winnie Mburu, soprano

\* denotes standing as able.  
LITURGIST: Luanne Rigsby