

A vibrant graphic with a teal background. The word "SUMMER" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, the words "Saints Series" are written in a white, serif font. The text is surrounded by various summer-themed illustrations: a hot air balloon, a pineapple, a rainbow, a watermelon slice, a donut, and various tropical leaves and flowers.

SUMMER Saints Series

Toni Morrison

July 19, 2026
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Ga 30605
www.covpresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

10:00am Worship

8th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr., C. Tornquist

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

Come, all who carry stories within you —
stories of joy and sorrow, belonging and loss.

**We come before the God who knows us by name
and remembers every life.**

Come, all who know that wounds can linger
and hope can sometimes feel far away.

**The Spirit of God moves among the valleys of this world,
gathering the scattered and breathing life.**

So let us come with courage to remember, grace to tell the truth,
and hope in the God who makes all things new.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN 307

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

CWM RHONDDA

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of truth and mercy, you remember every life and hear every cry, yet we confess how easily we forget. We turn away from painful histories when they disturb our comfort. We prefer simple stories to honest ones and sometimes treat the telling of a wound as though it were more troubling than the wound itself. We reduce people to categories, inherit old habits of seeing, and fail to recognize the full humanity of those whose lives are different from our own. Forgive us, O God. Give us courage to face what must be remembered, humility to receive truths we would rather avoid, and grace to seek repair where harm continues. Keep us from becoming imprisoned by guilt, resentment, or despair. Breathe your Spirit into the dry and wounded places of our lives, that truth may lead toward freedom, memory toward wisdom, and repentance toward new life. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen [*Silent prayers of confession*]

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*responsive*)

God does not abandon us in the valleys we have made or leave us imprisoned by what has been.

**The mercy of God gathers what has been scattered,
restores what sin has diminished,
and breathes new life into weary hearts.**

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

II Corinthians 5: 16-20 (Pew Bible p. 1055)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

(Pew Bible p. 791)

PROCLAMATION

A People Re-membered

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 286

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

TRENTHAM

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*unison*) We believe in God, who created every person in the divine image, who remembers those the world forgets, and who hears the cries history has tried to silence. We believe in Jesus Christ, who entered the wounds of the world, whose body was broken by human violence, and whom God raised from death into life. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who moves through dry and wounded places, gathers what has been scattered, and awakens hope where despair has taken hold. We believe the church is called to tell the truth with humility, to remember with compassion, to seek justice and repair, and to bear witness to the new life God is creating. In life and in death, in what we remember and what we are still learning to see, we belong 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

Steal Away

arr., P. Keveren

***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 772

"Live into Hope"

TRURO

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN 600

"Amen"

AMEN

Amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

*POSTLUDE

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MUSIC DIRECTOR: Aaron Carter-Enyi

PIANO: Pam Knox

*denotes standing as able.

LITURGIST: Jim Newland