



July 27, 2025

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1065 Gaines School Road

Athens, GA 30605

[www.covpresathens.org](http://www.covpresathens.org)

# COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

10:00am Worship

Summer Saints 6: Johnny Cash  
7th Sunday after Pentecost

## GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PREPARATION

*The Old Rugged Cross*

Aaron Carter-Enyi/Bennard

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

We come to worship Christ

**Who proclaims good news to the poor, binds up the broken-hearted, frees the prisoner and comforts those who mourn.**

We come to praise the Lord

**Who bestows a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy Instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.**

We rejoice in the power of the Spirit

**Who rebuilds ancient ruins and restores broken places.**

**Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN (*see insert*)

"The Old Rugged Cross"

George Bennard

## CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**Merciful God, we confess that we are weary — weary of the brokenness in ourselves and in the world. We carry burdens we cannot seem to lay down: resentment we nurture, pain we hide, fears we cannot name. We confess that we have judged others harshly, and refused to see our own need for grace. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to hear your voice calling us to come as we are. Lift our burdens, and teach us the gentle rhythms of your grace. Make us a people of compassion, who stand with the hurting and walk in the ways of your peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ.**

*(Silent prayers of confession)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

If God is for us, who is against us?

**For God did not withhold Christ, but gave him up for us all.**

We are more than conquerors through this divine love for us.

**Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!**

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**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61: 1-4

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11: 25-30

PROCLAMATION

*The Man in Black*  
(Summer Saints: Johnny Cash)

Rev. Tom Buchanan

\*HYMN 837

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

SHOWALTER

## RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*UNISON*)      Adapted from *The Confession of 1967*  
**In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all. 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      *There'll Be Peace in the Valley*      Thomas Dorsey

\*DOXOLOGY 607      "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. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN 625      "How Great Thou Art"      HOW GREAT THOU ART

\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\*SENDING HYMN 730      "I Sing a Song of the Saints"      GRAND ISLE  
**(verse 1) I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green: they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.**

\*POSTLUDE