



June 29, 2025
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, GA 30605
www.covpresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

10:00am Worship

3rd Sunday after Pentecost / Summer Saints 2: Harper Lee

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PREPARATION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

By the Rivers of Babylon

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, weary ones—those whose harps hang silent on the willows of despair.

We come, aching with questions, hearts heavy with longing.

Come, courageous ones—those who still sing through prison walls and midnight shadows.

We come, carrying songs of hope, justice, and mercy.

Let us gather to remember, to rejoice, and to renew our song.

For even in the darkest night, God gives a melody.

The song must never die.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN 641**

"When In Our Music God is Glorified"

ENGELBERG

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Holy God, you have planted in our hearts the song of life – a melody of mercy, justice, and grace. But too often we silence it. We are weary of singing against the noise of hatred, too cautious to lift our voices for the vulnerable, too broken to believe beauty can still bloom. Forgive us for every time we have chosen quiet over courage, and comfort over compassion. Call us back to the music of your Spirit – to the song that stirs our bones and softens our hearts. Let our lives echo your love until the whole world hears your good news. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(silent prayers of confession)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*responsive*)

Even when we hang up our harps, God does not forget our song.

Even in prison, even in exile, even in despair –

God sings over us with mercy.

Friends, the good news is this: Christ meets us where we are and calls us into new life.

Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

The song lives on! Thanks be to God! Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*PRAISE HYMN 587

"Alleluia!"
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

CELTIC ALLELUIA

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 137: 1—6

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 16: 16--34

PROCLAMATION

"The Song Must Never Die"

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 821

"How Can I Keep from Singing?"

Robert Lowry, 1869

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God, whose song echoes through creation – a melody of justice, mercy, and steadfast love. We believe in Jesus Christ, whose life sang truth in a world of lies, who welcomed the silenced, who stood with the oppressed, and who, even in death, refused to let the music of grace be silenced. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who inspires courage when hope seems lost, who reminds us of the sacred story we belong to, and who teaches us to listen – to each other, to the earth, and to the still, small voice of God. We believe the song must never die. Even in the prisons of despair, even in the shadowlands of injustice, we are called to sing – with empathy, with courage, with joy. This is our faith. This is the song we carry. Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

Stand By Me

Charles Tindley

***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 340**

"This Is My Song"

FINLANDIA

***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**

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MUSIC DIRECTOR: Aaron Carter-Enyi

* denotes standing as able.
LITURGIST: Ada Brock Rea