



Flannery O'Connor

July 26, 2026

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1065 Gaines School Road

Athens, Ga 30605

www.covpresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

10:00am Worship

9th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

Melody of Old Hymns-Gospel Style arr., J. Raney/V. Labenske

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

The Church in the Wildwood

Dr. Wm S. Pitts

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Come, all who are weary of measuring yourselves and others.

We come to the God whose mercy is wider than every judgment.

Come with your virtues and failures, your gratitude and regret, your faith and your need.

We come as we are, trusting that grace will meet us here.

God lifts the lowly, unsettles the proud, and gathers a people no human ranking could arrange.

So let every voice join the Lord's praise! Let us worship God!

HYMN 475

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Merciful God, we confess how readily we compare ourselves with others. We notice their failures and excuse our own. We divide the world into the worthy and unworthy, the enlightened and ignorant, the respectable and suspect. Even our virtues can become evidence of our superiority, and our convictions can harden into contempt. Forgive us, O God. Free us from the need to stand above anyone else. Teach us to speak truth without cruelty, to pursue justice without self-righteousness, and to receive correction without defensiveness. Burn away whatever keeps us from recognizing your image in every neighbor. Bring us, without disguise or excuse, into the freedom of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[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 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" HALLE, HALLE
(SINGING 2 X'S) **Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!**
 Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 51: 1-12 (Pew Bible pp. 509-510)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 18: 9-14 (Pew Bible pp. 957-958)

PROCLAMATION *The Order of Grace* Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 442 "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" WOODWORTH

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

We believe in the God of grace, whose mercy comes before all our striving and whose love cannot be earned or possessed. We believe in Jesus Christ, who welcomed sinners, confronted the self-righteous, defended those treated with contempt, and gave himself for the life of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who tells the truth about us without abandoning us, burns away pride and fear, and remakes us in the likeness of Christ. We believe the church is not a gathering of the spiritually superior, but a community of people who live by mercy, practice repentance, seek justice, and learn to see every person as beloved of God. In life and in death, our hope rests not in our own goodness, but in the amazing grace of God. Amen.

INSTALLATION OF NEW ELDER

Mindy Hill

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

Lord, I Know I Have Been Changed

Larry Shackley

*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 649

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

AMAZING GRACE

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN 600

"Amen"

AMEN

Amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

*POSTLUDE

Praise Him! Praise Him!

arr., V. Labenske

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MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

PIANO: Betsy Burmeister

* denotes standing as able.

LITURGIST: Jim Anderson

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