



Covenant Presbyterian Church

1065 Gaines School Road

Athens, Ga 30605

www.covpresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

11:00am Worship

12th Sunday after Pentecost / Rally Day

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God

Anna Laura Page

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who are ready to learn, and all who know how much we have yet to learn.

We come to the God whose wisdom is wider than our understanding.

Come with your questions and your gifts, your familiar stories and your unfinished ones.

God gathers children and elders, newcomers and longtime friends, people of every nation and language into one beloved community.

The prophet declares: "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

So let the doors stand open. Let every gift be received. Let our vision grow larger.

Christ meets us at boundaries we thought were fixed and leads us into the wide country of grace.

On this Rally Day, as another season of worship, learning, service, and fellowship begins, let us enter gladly into the life God is opening before us.

Let us worship God!

* HYMN 401

"Here in This Place "

GATHER US IN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

God of wide and abundant mercy, you gather people from every place and call your house a house of prayer for all. Yet we confess how quickly we decide who belongs, whose voice counts, and who has something to teach us. We confuse familiarity with truth and comfort with faithfulness. We have sometimes offered welcome without curiosity, making room for others without allowing their presence to change us. We have guarded our assumptions and overlooked wisdom spoken by children, strangers, newcomers, and people whose lives are different from our own. Forgive us, O God. Loosen our grip on small certainties. Open our ears, enlarge our vision, and give us the humility to receive the gifts you send through unexpected hands. Lead us more deeply into the mercy of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. *(silent prayers of confession)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS *(Responsive)*

God's mercy cannot be rationed, and God's grace is larger than every boundary we draw.

In Jesus Christ, we are met with compassion, forgiven in love, and invited again into the wideness of God's life.

The Spirit is still opening hearts, opening doors, and making all things new.

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 582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" GLORY TO GOD

1. Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

2. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end.

Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Pew Bible pp. 672-673) Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p. 895) Matthew 15: 21-28

PROCLAMATION

A Doorway to Another World

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 726

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

KELVINGROVE

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

We believe in God, Creator of every people and nation, whose wisdom exceeds our understanding and whose house is a house of prayer for all. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, in whom the mercy of God came near: healing the suffering, crossing boundaries, receiving unexpected faith, and revealing the wideness of God's kingdom. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who opens the scriptures, enlarges our vision, and speaks through voices we may not expect to hear. We believe the church is called to be a learning community of grace: a people who listen as well as speak, who receive as well as give, who welcome and are themselves changed, until the love of God becomes more visible among us and throughout the world. In life and in death, we belong to God, and by grace we are still being made new. Amen.

COMMISSIONING OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEACHERS & LEADERS (see insert)

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

My Savior's Love

Charles H. Gabriel, arr. Tornquist

***DOXOLOGY 609 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" LASST UNS ERFREUEN**
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 435

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

IN BIBLONE

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

***SENDING HYMN 582 "We are Marching in the Light of God" SIYAHAMBA**
We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching, we are marching,
oh, we are marching in the light of God.

*POSTLUDE

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MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi
ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR: David Aina

ADULT CHOIR

* denotes standing as able.
LITURGIST: Ada Brock Rea