



August 9, 2026

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1065 Gaines School Road

Athens, Ga 30605

www.coupresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

10:00am Worship

11th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who stand between a shore that has vanished and a future not yet visible.

We come carrying memories, longings, and questions.

Come, all who have rowed against the wind, whose strength has grown thin in the long watches of the night.

We come seeking courage for the journey and grace for the next faithful movement.

Across deep waters, Christ draws near.

Before we know how the night will end,

before the farther shore appears, Christ speaks:

"Take heart. I am. Do not be afraid."

Let us worship God!

* HYMN 687

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past "

ST. ANNE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

God of covenant and deep waters, you call us beyond familiar shores, yet we confess how tightly we cling to what we know. When the wind rises, we assume that you have abandoned us. When the future remains hidden, we surrender too easily to fear. We mistake certainty for faith and safety for faithfulness. We become so preoccupied with our own survival that we fail to see those facing harsher winds: neighbors whose dignity is threatened, communities battered by injustice, and people sinking beneath burdens they cannot carry alone. Forgive us, O God. Reach into the waters where our courage has failed. Draw us again toward Christ. Teach us to trust your presence even when the way remains unclear, and make us ready to extend to others the mercy by which we have been held. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *(silent prayers of confession)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS *(Responsive)*

When our faith falters, Christ's hand is already extended.

When fear closes over us, grace reaches deeper still.

We are not abandoned to the waters.

We are caught, restored, and brought again into the fellowship of Christ.

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 587

(singing 2 x's)

"Alleluia!"

**Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

CELTIC ALLELUIA

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p. 658) Isaiah 43: 1-7

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p. 894) Matthew 14: 22-33

PROCLAMATION

In Between Days

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 803

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

RESIGNATION

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

We believe in God, Creator of heaven and earth, whose Spirit moved over the deep, who sets boundaries for the waters and calls every beloved child by name. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who fed the hungry, withdrew to pray, and came to frightened disciples across the sea. He entered the depths of human suffering, was crucified by the powers of this world, and was raised into life for us and for all creation. He does not wait for us upon some distant shore, but comes to meet us in the storm. We believe in the Holy Spirit, breath of courage and giver of hope, who sustains the church through long nights and uncertain passages. The Spirit receives our little faith, hears our cries for help, and forms us into a people of mercy. We trust that no chaos, fear, suffering, or death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we will row together, reach toward those who are sinking, speak truth in love, and seek the healing of the world until all creation rests in the peace of 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

***DOXOLOGY 607 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" OLD ONE HUNDRETH**
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 741 "Guide My Feet" GUIDE MY FEET**

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

***SENDING HYMN 600 "Amen" AMEN**
Amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

*POSTLUDE