



Keep Your
Lamps Burning

August 10, 2025

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1065 Gaines School Road

Athens, Ga 30605

www.coupresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

10:00am Worship

9th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PREPARATION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

People of God, come with your lamps lit and your hearts open,
Ready to hear the Spirit's whisper, ready to move when God calls.

**We come not as those who have arrived, but as those on a journey,
Trusting the One who goes before us and walks beside us.**

This is not the end — it is a beginning.

A holy moment to rise, to sing, to be renewed in purpose.

**Let us praise the Lord, who brings life out of death,
Hope out of despair, and new beginnings out of every ending.**

Let us worship God!

*HYMN 452

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Paul Baloche

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Liberating God, you call us to live as people ready for your kingdom — alert, generous, and bold — but too often we stay stuck in fear and comfort. You speak of new beginnings, but we cling to endings. You urge us to step out in faith, but we wait for certainty. You offer us freedom, but we rehearse old grievances and tired despair. Forgive us, O God. Set our feet on your path once more. Give us the courage to trust your promises, and the grace to live as people made new — not someday, but *today*. In the name of Jesus Christ, our hope and our Redeemer, we pray. (*Silent prayers of confession*)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

The good news of the gospel is this:

We are not abandoned to the past or condemned by our fear.

**God's mercy is new every morning,
and Christ meets us on the road with love and power.**

Friends, hear and believe the good news:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven — and made ready for the journey ahead.
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

Exodus 12: 1-14

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 12: 32-38

PROCLAMATION

Not at an End, but a Beginning

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 250

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

Natalie Sleeth

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(UNISON)*

We believe in a God who sets people free — who led the Israelites out from bondage, and who still calls us to lives of courage, movement, and hope. We believe in Jesus Christ, who taught us not to be afraid, who told us to keep our lamps lit and our hearts open, for the Spirit is always stirring, and the kingdom is always near. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who awakens us to new beginnings, who gives us strength when the way is uncertain, and who binds us together as a people on the move. We believe that now is not the end, but a beginning. We are not alone. We are called, forgiven, and sent — ready for what God will do next. Thanks be to 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 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 432 "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord" Green/Parry

*CHARGE & BLESSING

*SENDING HYMN 546 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" SICILIAN MARINERS
(verse 1) **Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.**

*POSTLUDE

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* denotes standing as able.

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

LITURGIST: Pam Knox