

Stronger Together

• IN FAITH, IN SERVICE, IN LOVE •

PARTNERSHIP



September 13, 2026

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1065 Gaines School Road

Athens, Ga 30605

www.covpresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

11:00am Worship

16th Sunday after Pentecost/Covenant–Olomouc Partnership Sunday

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

The Madonna of Frydek from On an Overgrown Path, Leoš Janáček

*CALL TO WORSHIP

How very good and pleasant it is when God's people dwell together in unity!

Across nations and languages, Christ gathers us into one body.

Across histories and cultures, the Spirit gives us gifts to receive from one another.

We give thanks for friends whose faith enlarges our own, for companions who help us see the gospel with new eyes.

We come as partners in grace, sharing one hope, one calling, one life in Jesus Christ.

So let love overflow, let friendship deepen, and let the whole church rejoice in the goodness of the Lord!

Let us worship God!

*HYMN 624

"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

TOULON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

God of every people and place, you have called us into a fellowship wider than borders, languages, cultures, and histories. Yet we confess that our vision is often too small. We assume that what is familiar to us is normal for everyone. We are quicker to speak than to listen, quicker to offer help than to ask what others might teach us. Forgive us, gracious God. Give us the humility to receive as freely as we give. Deepen our curiosity about lives different from our own. Teach us to recognize Christ in voices, traditions, and experiences that widen our understanding. By your Spirit, make us faithful partners in the gospel, holding one another in our hearts and growing together in the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(silent prayers of confession)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

The One who began a good work among us is still at work by grace.

Christ does not leave us confined within the limits of our own vision.

The Spirit forgives, renews, and draws us more deeply into the wide fellowship of God's beloved people.

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 p. 563) Psalm 133

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p. 1070) Philippians 1: 3-11

PROCLAMATION

Partners in the Gospel

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 318

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

ST. PETER

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

We believe in the God whose love reaches across every border and whose grace gathers people from every nation and language. We believe in Jesus Christ, who calls strangers into friendship, breaks down walls of separation, and joins us together in one body. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who speaks through many voices, gives different gifts to different people, and leads the church into deeper truth through one another. We believe the church is a worldwide communion, called to share the gospel in humility and love, to give and to receive, to listen and to learn, and to bear one another's joys and burdens. In Christ, we belong to God and to one another. 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

The Lord Is My Light

(Czech Hymn)

***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 761

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

BEECHER

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

***SENDING HYMN 853 "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, Oh, We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching, Oh, We are marching in the light of God.

*POSTLUDE

All Music Rights Reserved. OneLicense.net #A71439

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR: David Aina ADULT CHOIR

* denotes standing as able.

LITURGIST: Luanne Rigsby

GUEST PIANIST: Dick Zimdars