

"And being found in
appearance as a man,

Christ
**HUMBLED
HIMSELF**

and became obedient to the
point of death, even the
death of the cross."

September 27, 2026
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Ga 30605
www.covpresathens.org

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

11:00am Worship

17th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

Ein' Feste Burg

Luther/Waldrop

*CALL TO WORSHIP

To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.

In you, O God, we place our trust.

Make us to know your ways; teach us your paths.

Lead us in your truth, for you are the God of our salvation.

We come to worship the God whose greatness is revealed in mercy,
whose power takes the form of love, whose glory shines in Jesus Christ.

Come, let us open our hearts to the mind of Christ.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN 611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Gracious God, in Jesus Christ you have shown us the shape of holy love, yet we confess how easily our lives take another form. We cling to status, defend our own importance, and measure strength by the ability to control. We protect what is ours while overlooking the burdens carried by others. We seek influence without always asking whom it serves, and we sometimes remain quiet when love requires courage. Forgive us, O God. Free us from the fear that makes us grasp and the pride that keeps us from serving. Give us the mind of Christ: humility rooted in strength, mercy joined with courage, and love willing to spend itself for the good of another. Shape our lives more fully in the likeness of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

(silent prayers of confession)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

Jesus Christ came among us in mercy, sharing fully in our human life.

Christ entered even the depths of suffering and death, and God raised him into life.

The grace revealed in Jesus Christ reaches us here —

forgiving, restoring, and setting us free to love.

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.492) Psalm 25: 1-9

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p. 1071) Philippians 2: 1-11

PROCLAMATION

The Shape of God

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 630

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

CRUSADER'S HYMN

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

We believe in the God revealed to us in Jesus Christ: the Creator whose power is steadfast love, the Lord whose greatness is mercy, the Holy One who draws near to the life of the world. We believe in Jesus Christ, who shared our human life, welcomed those pushed aside, took the form of a servant, and gave himself in love even unto death. God raised him from the dead and has given him the name above every name, that every tongue may confess: Jesus Christ is Lord. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who forms the church in the likeness of Christ, giving us courage to serve, wisdom to seek justice, compassion to bear one another's burdens, and hope for the healing of creation. In life and in death, we belong to the Triune God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. 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

Passacaglia in C Minor

Fred Bramann

***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 366

"Love Divine, All Love Excelling"

HYFRYDOL

*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

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

* denotes standing as able.
LITURGIST: Jim Newland