



[Gustave Doré](#), *Jacob Wrestling with the Angel* (1855)

*September 07, 2025  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
1065 Gaines School Road  
Athens, Ga 30605  
[www.coupresathens.org](http://www.coupresathens.org)*

# COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

11:00am Worship

Holy Communion  
13th Sunday after Pentecost

## GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PREPARATION

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

*Be Thou My Vision*

John Rutter

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Come, all who wrestle with regret and hope,  
all who carry wounds that do not heal quickly.

**Here we encounter the Holy One,  
who meets us in struggle and does not let us go.**

Come, all who long for a new day,  
a deeper truth, a truer belonging.

**Here we find blessing, not to escape the world,  
but to walk into it with courage and compassion.**

**Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN 65

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Janzen/Schultz

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Persevering God, we confess that too often we run from the truth of who we are. We cling to old names that wound and confine us, while failing to embrace the names you give — Beloved, Chosen, Precious, Yours. We confess that we seek blessings for ourselves while forgetting your call to be a blessing for the poor, the stranger, the oppressed, and the weary. We resist the hard work of justice, and we grow tired of the long night of struggle. Forgive us, Lord. Do not let us walk away unchanged. Name us again in your mercy, and send us out to live as people of courage, bearing witness to your love. In Jesus Christ we pray. (*Silent prayers of confession*)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

Hear the good news:

The God who wrestles with us is the God who blesses us still.

**We are given a new name, a new identity, a new life.**

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven – set free to walk in grace, and to live as people of mercy and peace.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*PRAISE HYMN 582 “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me” VASILE

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

II Corinthians 5: 16-21  
(pp. 1055-1056)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 32: 22-31  
(pp. 29)

PROCLAMATION

*The Struggle that Makes Us Whole* Rev. Tom Buchanan

\*HYMN 833

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

Matheson/Peace

## RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

### OFFERING

#### PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNION ELEMENTS

What do you bring to the Lord's Table?

**The gifts of God for the people of God.**

**Thanks be to God.**

#### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER including concerns and celebrations

**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.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION/SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*Server:* The body of Christ was broken for you. *Served:* Thanks be to God.

*Server:* The blood of Christ was shed for you. *Served:* Thanks be to God.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*HYMN 834

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

PRECIOUS LORD

#### \*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.**

#### \*POSTLUDE

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\* denotes standing as able.

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

LITURGIST: Lisa Buchanan

ADULT CHOIR

PRAISE BAND: Donny Whitehead, sax Jason Roberts, bass Donnie Lindsey, drums