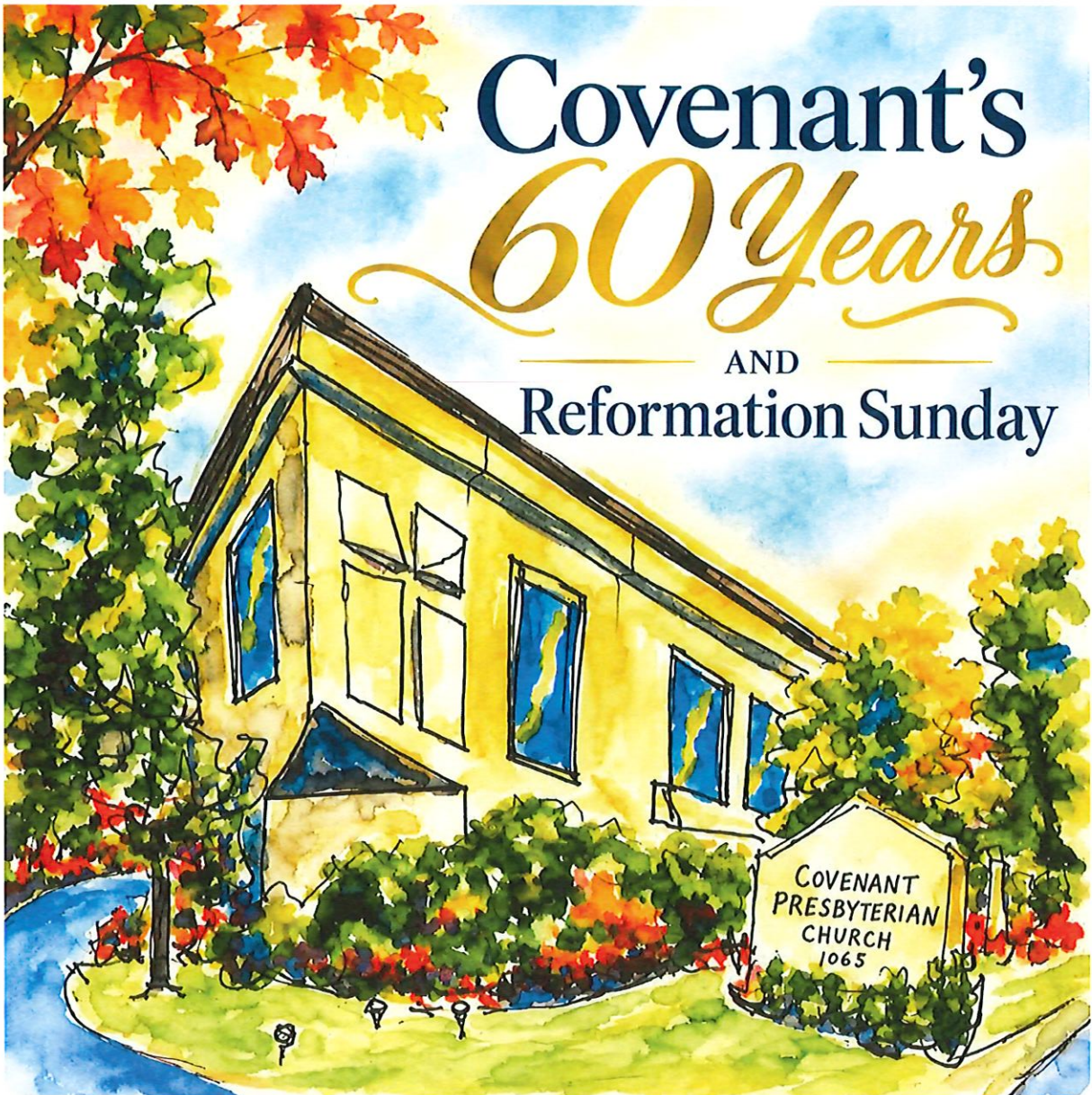




October 25, 2026
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Ga 30605

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: GREEN

11:00am Worship

Reformation Sunday/ 60th Anniversary Celebration

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger

arr., Tammy Waldrop

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

Today, We Celebrate Our Faith

Joseph Martin

*CALL TO WORSHIP

From generation to generation, God has been our dwelling place, our refuge and our strength.

We gather with thanksgiving for sixty years of faith, fellowship, and service.

Before this congregation had a name or a home, God's Spirit was already at work, gathering people together in faith and hope.

We give thanks for those who came before us, and for the grace that has brought us to this day.

Today, the living Christ calls us again to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

The Spirit leads us onward, renewing our faith and widening the reach of our love.

So let us rejoice in the goodness of God, whose faithfulness endures through every generation, and whose mercies are new every morning.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN 321

"The Church's One Foundation"

AURELIA

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

Faithful and merciful God, you have called us into a covenant of love, gathering us into a community where every person is cherished and every life is precious. Yet we confess that we have sometimes allowed our love to grow narrow and our welcome to become uncertain. We have cherished familiar traditions while resisting the new things your Spirit would teach us. We have spoken of justice while turning away from the suffering of our neighbors. We have celebrated your grace without always extending that same generosity to others. *(continued on next page)*

Forgive us, gracious God. Renew our hearts, deepen our compassion, and give us courage to follow Christ wherever he may lead. Make us a people whose love is visible in our actions, whose faith is alive with hope, and whose doors and hearts remain open to all. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. *(Silent prayers of confession)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS *(Responsive)*

God's love for us is older than our failures, stronger than our fears, and more generous than anything we could earn or deserve.

Through Jesus Christ, we are embraced by grace, restored in mercy, and called into newness of life.

And by the power of the Holy Spirit, God continues the good work begun among us, shaping us more fully into the likeness 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 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. 536) Psalm 90: 1-6, 12-17

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING (Pew Bible p. 902-903) Matthew 22: 34 - 40

PROCLAMATION *Let Us Build a House* Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 301 "Let Us Build A House" TWO OAKS

*LITANY OF THANKSGIVING AND RENEWAL *(see insert)*

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Unison)*

We believe in the living God, Creator of heaven and earth, whose covenant love endures through every generation. We trust in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, who proclaimed the reign of God, welcomed the stranger, confronted injustice, and gave himself in love for the life of the world. In his death and resurrection, God has revealed a grace greater than our sin and a hope stronger than death. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gathers us into the Church, opens the Scriptures to our understanding, and continually renews us in faith, hope, and love. We confess that the Church belongs to Jesus Christ, and that by God's grace we are always being reformed according to the Word of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit. With Christians in every time and place, we seek to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, until God's promised reign of justice, mercy, and peace is fully revealed. 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

Joyful Dance

Paul Douglas

*DOXOLOGY

"We Lift Our Voices"

OFFERING

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 687

(Verses 1-3, 6)

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ST. ANNE

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN 649 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

AMAZING GRACE

(Verse 5) **When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

POSTLUDE

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MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR: David Aina

ADULT CHOIR Grace La Courte, Trumpet

* denotes standing as able.

LITURGIST: Kirche Rogers

HANDBELLS - David Boardman, Director

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, for the vision and faith of those who first established this congregation, for their courage to begin something new, and for the gifts they entrusted to generations yet unborn,

We give you thanks, O God, for your faithfulness through the years.

For the pastors, elders, deacons, teachers, musicians, and countless faithful members who have strengthened this church; for children nurtured in faith, friendships formed, and lives touched by grace,

We give you thanks, O God, for your faithfulness through the years.

For the witness of this congregation in the wider community, for ministries of compassion and justice, for friendships across boundaries of race, culture, and tradition, and for the ever-widening welcome of your people,

We give you thanks, O God, for your faithfulness through the years.

For those who have gone before us and now rest in your eternal care, whose love and labor remain woven into the life of this church,

We give you thanks, O God, for your faithfulness through the years.

And now, as we receive this precious inheritance, will we seek to follow Jesus Christ with renewed faith, deepening compassion, and generous hearts?

We will, with God's help.

Will we remain open to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, learning from the past while listening faithfully for God's call in the present?

We will, with God's help.

Will we strive to make this congregation a living witness to the love of God, welcoming every person, seeking justice and peace, and serving our neighbors with humility and joy?

We will, with God's help.

Then let us pray together:

Faithful God, who has led your people through every generation, receive our thanksgiving and renew our commitment to you. Preserve in us all that is good and gracious from the years behind us. Give us wisdom to discern what must change, courage to answer new callings, and love sufficient for the work ahead. Make of us a living house of faith, where your mercy is known, your justice is practiced, and your love is shared with all. In the name of Jesus Christ, our foundation and our hope, we pray. Amen.