



*January 11, 2026
Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Ga 30605
www.coupresathens.org*

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: WHITE

11:00am Worship

Baptism of the Lord/First Sunday after Epiphany

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY 130 *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* ERMUNTRE DICH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Before we were named by the world,
before we were measured, labeled, or ranked,
God called us by name and claimed us as beloved.
Before we ever tried to prove ourselves worthy,
before we ever sought to earn belonging or approval,
God spoke love over us—freely and without condition.

The waters of baptism still shimmer with promise.

We are God's own. We are embraced in grace.

Come, let us worship the One who names us, claims us, and sends us.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN 475

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*) **Holy and faithful God, we confess that we forget who we are. We allow the world to name us — by our productivity and success, by our fears and resentments, by our failures and our need to belong. We confess that we live as though we must earn love, protect ourselves at all costs, and secure our worth through power, consumption, or control. We forget the waters that named us beloved. We forget the promises spoken over us. We forget that we belong to you. Forgive us, God of grace. Wash us again in your mercy. Restore to us the freedom of our baptism, that we may live not from fear, but from love, not from scarcity, but from trust, not from pride, but from grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Beloved, in whom we are made new. (*silent prayers of confession*)**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

Hear the good news:

Before we asked, God claimed us.

Before we wandered, God named us.

Before we proved anything at all, God called us beloved.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

The One who says, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you,"
says also, "You are mine."

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*PRAISE HYMN 587

(*singing 2 x's*)

"Alleluia!"

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

CELTIC ALLELUIA

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p. 658) Isaiah 43: 1—7

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

(Pew Bible p. 881) Matthew 3: 13-17

PROCLAMATION

You Are Beloved

Rev. Tom Buchanan

*HYMN 476

"Crashing Water at Creation"

CRASHING WATERS

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

Do you remember your baptism and affirm your trust in God's grace?

We remember that we are baptized.

We remember that we belong to God.

Do you renounce the powers that seek to claim your loyalty over God's love — the idols of fear, wealth, violence, and division?

We renounce them, trusting in God's grace to free us.

Do you commit yourself to live as one claimed by Christ — to seek justice, practice mercy, and walk humbly with God?

With God's help, we do. 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 607 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" OLD ONE HUNDRETH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 377 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" HOUSTON

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN 377 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" HOUSTON

(verse 1) **I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.**

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: **In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

*POSTLUDE

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MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi
ADULT CHOIR

* denotes standing as able.
LITURGIST: Luanne Rigby