

## RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**We believe in God, who chose nearness over distance, relationship over power, and love over fear. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, who lived among us, revealing grace in human form. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who redeems the time being, sanctifies ordinary life, and calls us to live as bearers of God's light. We trust that even now — in unfinished days and ordinary tasks — God is still at work. 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 129 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" E IST EIN ROS

### \*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

### \*SENDING HYMN 110 "Love Has Come BRING A TORCH

(verse 1)

**Love has come: a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has  
come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

### \*POSTLUDE

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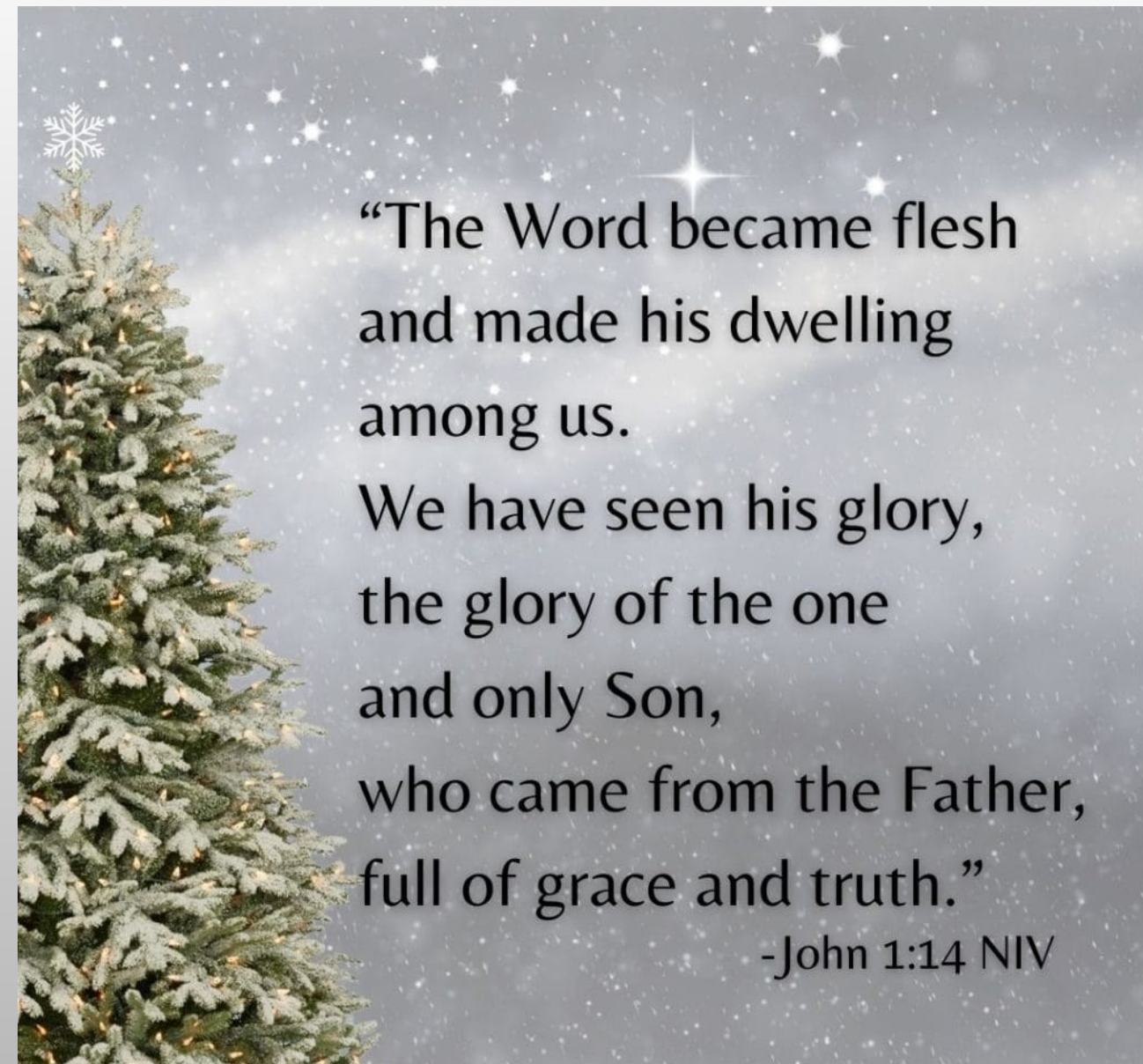
MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

GUEST PIANIST: Logan Bono VIOLINS: Courtney Combs Baker, Timothy Baker

Christina Noel Reaves & Rich Reaves, voices Betsy Burmeister, piano

\* denotes standing as able.

LITURGIST: Kirche Rogers



**“The Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling  
among us.**

**We have seen his glory,  
the glory of the one  
and only Son,  
who came from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.”**

**-John 1:14 NIV**

*December 28, 2025  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
1065 Gaines School Road  
Athens, Ga 30605  
[www.covpresathens.org](http://www.covpresathens.org)*

# COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: WHITE

11:00am Worship

First Sunday after Christmas/ Youth Alumni Sunday

## GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE *O Come All Ye Faithful* YASUDA

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY *The Colours of Christmas* John Rutter

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Light has come into the world,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.

**The Word became flesh  
and lived among us—full of grace and truth.**

Not only in moments of wonder,  
but in ordinary days and fragile lives.

**Not only in holy nights,  
but in kitchens, classrooms, offices, and streets.**

Come, let us worship the God who enters the world as it is,  
and stays with us still.

**Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN 143 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" REGENT SQUARE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*) **God of incarnation, you came not in power, but in vulnerability; not above our lives, but into them. Yet we confess that once the wonder fades, we return too easily to business as usual. We treat grace as a season, not a way of living. We confess our reluctance to let Christmas change us — our habits, our priorities, our loves. We confess how quickly we send you away, even as we ask you to remain. Forgive us, O God. Meet us again in the ordinary places of our lives. Teach us to recognize your presence in the work of our hands, the care of our relationships, and the quiet faithfulness of each day. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

Hear the good news: The Word became flesh and lived among us.

**Grace does not withdraw when the season ends.**

Love does not abandon the ordinary.

**In Jesus Christ, God remains with us — full of grace, full of truth.**

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 113 "Angels We Have Heard On High" GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,**

**and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

## LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING (Pew Bible p. 659) Isaiah 43: 18-21

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING (Pew Bible p.968) John 1: 1-14

PROCLAMATION *Now What?* Rev. Tom Buchanan

\*HYMN 144 "In the Bleak Midwinter" CRANHAM