



To the Greater Glory of God
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

11:00 a.m.

SANCTUARY

Covenant Presbyterian is a dynamic Christian community that gladly invites all people into a transformational experience of faith; boldly proclaims the gospel; bravely works toward a whole and just world; and passionately nurtures discipleship.

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, March 31, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Welcome to Covenant; we are glad you are here. Children are always welcome in worship. Childcare is offered in the Education Wing for children 6 weeks to four years old. Infant soothing rooms with live video of the worship service are available in the balcony and parlor. See an usher for assistance.

PRELUDE

Siciliano J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP Luke 24: 1-5

CHORAL INTROIT

Easter Introit John Ferguson¹

Listen. The one who bore God's heart, the one who spoke God's peace, the one in whom God agonized is now the Risen Lord. Death was no prison for him. Jesus Christ is raised and among us. All that you see and hear comes from the one who was freed. Hear, O people of God, that Jesus Christ is Lord. Alleluia!

~ *Covenant Choir* ~

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today EASTER HYMN

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Grace Lindvall

*EASTER AFFIRMATION

Liturgist: O God, early in the morning when the world was young,

People: you made life in all its beauty and terror; you gave birth to all we know.

All: Thank you God for your creative goodness.

Liturgist: Early in the morning, when the world least expected it,

People: a new born child crying in a manger announced that you had come among us, that you were one of us.

All: Thank you God for coming to be among us, living our lives, knowing our pain and experiencing our joy.

Liturgist: Early in the morning surrounded by self-interested religious leaders, anxious civic officials and silent friends, you accepted the penalty for doing good, for being Immanuel, God-with-us.

People: You shouldered, carried and suffered the cross while those about you jeered and cheered.

All: And it concerns us dear God with whom would we have stood had we been there on that perilous day.

Liturgist: Early in the morning a voice in a guarded graveyard and footsteps in the dew proclaimed that you had risen from the dead;

¹You are invited to rise in body or spirit

People: announced the startling news that you had come back to claim as your beloved own, those who had forgotten, denied and destroyed you.

All: Thank you God for such death-defeating extravagant love. On this resurrection day, we dare ask you to pry open our hearts to let such love transform and change us, this and every day. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 587** *(choir and congregation)*

Alleluia CELTIC ALLELUIA²

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLESKatherine Kerr

Following Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to remain in worship with their families or go to Childcare. Children going to Childcare should be accompanied by a parent/guardian to the first floor of the Education Wing.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:1-18New Testament, p. 108-109

SERMON

“Dirty Nails”Bob Henderson

Sermon Series: *Grounded & Growing*

***HYMN OF RESPONSE 233**

The Day of Resurrection LANCASHIRE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**from “A Declaration of Faith”

Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child,
descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin.
He lived as a Jew among Jews.
He announced to his people
the coming of God’s kingdom of justice and peace on earth.
We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,
yet born of God’s power
as was no other child.
In the person and work of Jesus,
God himself and a human life
are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.
The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God’s promised rule.
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that
God always intended.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Thine be the Glory.*J. Marty Cope³
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son; endless is the vict’ry thou
o’er death hast won; angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away.
Kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.
Lord Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom; let his church with gladness, hymns of
triumph sing, for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.
No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught without
thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than conqu’rors through thy
deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
~ Covenant Choir ~

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN 248**

*Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna!*HYMN TO JOY

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

“Hallelujah” from Messiah G.F. Handel⁴
Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.
The kingdom of this world is become
The kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he shall reign for ever and ever.
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!
~ Covenant Choir ~

***POSTLUDE**

*Toccata from ‘Symphony No. 5’*C.M. Widor

Notes:

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister

Grace Lindvall, associate minister, education

Katherine Kerr, senior associate minister, congregational life and care

Heather Potter, director of traditional music

Kenney Potter, choral conductor

Mark Glaeser, organist

Guest instrumentalists:

Anne Linebarger and Spencer Nance, trumpets

William Congdon, timpani

Covenant Choir

Katie Cornwell, carillon

WELCOME TO COVENANT

We are happy that you are worshiping with us today. Please fill out one of the Worship Response Cards in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate when finished. All are welcome for fellowship and refreshments in the Circle where today's preaching minister will be glad to greet you.

Interested in joining Covenant? We welcome new members every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor, located downstairs in the Sanctuary building. Feel free to contact our office at 704-333-9071 or email Lora.Borrelli@covenantpresby.org for more information. We will gladly host meetings in the Welcome Center upon request.

Masks are optional in the sanctuary and assistive listening devices are available from the ushers. Audio-induction hearing loops are installed in the sanctuary for use with hearing aids.



Each Sunday, we offer educational and fellowship opportunities in the mornings and evenings for children, youth and adults in the Education Wing and Fellowship Hall. Please see the digital signs in each building for details.

Are you signed up to receive our weekly emails? If not, please contact Rosie Strawn, Communications Manager, at Rosie.Strawn@covenantpresby.org.



Giving a financial gift makes Covenant's programs and ministries possible. You are invited to give generously at www.covenantpresby.org/ways-to-give or by scanning the QR code to give online or by texting a dollar amount to 704-312-7616. We're grateful for your support.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES (*As of March 27*)
Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Chuck and Thomas Porter who welcomed their son
Henry Matthew Porter on March 24, 2024.
Mary Neal and Ryan Bailey on the birth of their
daughter Sloan Ray Bailey on March 22, 2024.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Jodi Malone

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Sylvia M. Thompson
July 13, 1932 - March 22, 2024

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit. - Revelation 14:13

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Sybil Campbell
Nathan Doty

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Stay up to date by visiting covenantpresby.org/congregational-notes

We rely on members of the congregation, friends and relatives to keep us informed of hospitalizations, births and deaths. Please call the church office at 704-333-9071 or email Michelle.Williamson@CovenantPresby.org. Prayer requests may be submitted on your Worship Response Card, on the website at Connect and Grow > Congregational Care, or to Katherine.Kerr@CovenantPresby.org. A pastor remains on call for emergency situations (death, sudden hospitalizations, etc.). Please call 704-333-9071.

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