



To the Greater Glory of God
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, July 20, 2025
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, July 20, 2025

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.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

CENTERING PRAYER

Speak then, Lord, for your servant listens,
for you have the words of eternal life.

Speak to me to comfort my soul
and to change my whole life;
in turn, may it give you praise and honor,
forever and ever. Amen.

—Thomas à Kempis (c. 1380–1471)

PRELUDE

All People That on Earth Do Dwell arr. D. Cherwien

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Courtney Shudak

*HYMN OF PRAISE 385

All People That On Earth Do Dwell OLD HUNDREDTH

PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

*CHORAL CALL TO CONFESSION

Search Me, O God SURSUM CORDA¹

Search me, O God; search me and know my heart;
try me, O God; my mind and spirit try;
keep me from any path that gives you pain,
and lead me in the everlasting way.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, like Jonah, we often turn from you in word and deed. We retreat in comfort rather than face the challenges ahead. We run from actions that promote peace and inclusion. We question your will instead of accepting your way of hope for all humanity. Forgive us when our insecurities, doubts, and fears keep us from living into the call you have placed on our lives. Lead us back to you, as you did the prophet, by any means necessary. Instill in us anew a vision of peace, the boldness to act for justice, and an enduring passion to carry it forward. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

¹You are invited to rise in body or spirit

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (*choir and congregation*)

God's Mercies Are New Every Day G. Murphy

Choir: Continuous love that will never fail

All: God's mercies are new ev'ry day.

Choir: With God in my life sin cannot prevail

All: God's mercies are new ev'ry day.

ALL (REFRAIN):

God is faithful, Like the morning sunrise;

God is faithful, God's mercies are new ev'ryday.

*PASSING THE PEACE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Serenity Taylor

Grey Alan Kieb, son of Allison and Josh Kieb

Baptism Response (*choir and congregation*)

Children of the Heavenly Father. Swedish Folk Tune

**Children of the heavenly Father, safely in God's bosom
gather;**

Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;

**Unto them God's grace he showeth and their sorrows all God
knoweth.**

ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Jonah 4:1-4 Old Testament, p. 811

SERMON

"Those Pesky Ninevites" Serenity Taylor
Sermon Series: *Epic Tales*

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 649

Amazing Grace AMAZING GRACE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

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 OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

How Can I Keep From Singing C. Aspaas²

How can I keep from singing?
My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real, though far-off, hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that
rock I'm clinging. Since Love is lord of heaven
and earth. How can I keep from singing?
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
What though my joys and comforts die, I know the truth it liveth.
What though the darkness round me close,
songs in the night it giveth.
I lift my eyes, the clouds grow thin, I see the blue above it.
And day by day this pathway smooths since first I learned to love it.
~ Summer Choir ~

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 436

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us O QUANTA QUALIA

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

All Glory Be to God on High arr. T. Albrecht

Notes:

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Courtney Shudak, pastoral resident, mission and outreach
Mary Kate Sykes, pastoral resident, education
Serenitye Taylor, associate minister, congregational life
Mark Glaeser, interim director of traditional worship and organist
Lamar Davis, interim choral conductor
Summer Choir
Katie Cornwell, carillon

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism with the Kieb Family

grandparents: Brian and Leslie Kieb, Deborah Menius, all of
Charlotte, NC; aunts and uncles: Christopher and Laura Raia,
Ryan Menius, all of Charlotte, NC
Robin Goodson stands as Elder with the Kieb family.

WELCOME TO COVENANT

We are happy that you are worshipping 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 July 16)

Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Gray and Abbie Henderson Cherry on the
birth of Knox Edward on July 11.

Whitney and Will Bryan on the baptism of their
daughter Drew Hattie Bryan today at 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Daniel Presa

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Mary Jane Ramsey
December 9, 1937 - July 15, 2025

Jackson Gerard Benson, Jr
June 9, 1953 - July 8, 1925

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

OUR SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO

Lilli and Richard Gerardi and their family on the
death of his mother Joan Gerardi on July 3.

Mike and Cecelia Ramsey and their family on the death
of his mother Mary Jane Ramsey on July 15.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Edna Bacon
Donna Goodwin
Jim Leathers
Frank Mansfield
Dottie Stowe

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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 Aisha.Council@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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www.CovenantPresby.org