



COVENANT

presbyterian church

To the Greater Glory of God

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, July 27, 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 27, 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

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel
that needs to be filled.
My Lord, fill it.
I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.
I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent,
that my love may go out to my neighbor. Amen.
—Martin Luther (1483–1546)

PRELUDE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness arr. D. Miller

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Mary Kate Sykes

*HYMN OF PRAISE 307

God of Grace and God of Glory CWM RHONDDA

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 (responsive)

Liturgist: What does the Lord require of us?

**People: To live justly and love kindness and walk humbly
with our God.**

Liturgist: But we forget that, like all creation, we are fragile
and dependent.

People: Teach us to be grateful for each day we are given.

Liturgist: What does the Lord require of us?

**People: To live justly and love kindness and walk humbly
with our God.**

Liturgist: But we are selfish and think first of ourselves.

People: Teach us to remember and protect those in need.

Liturgist: What does the Lord require of us?

**People: To live justly and love kindness and walk humbly
with our God.**

Liturgist: But we judge others for difference and disagreement.

People: Teach us to give thanks for the gifts others bring.

Liturgist: What does the Lord require of us?

**People: To live justly and love kindness and walk humbly
with our God.**

Liturgist: But we impose personal preference and create burdensome
standards.

People: Teach us to listen and learn from others and you, God.

Liturgist: Forgive us, Lord. Renew our hearts.

**People: Teach us again what you require of us— to live justly and
love kindness and walk humbly with our God. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*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

ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Courtney Shudak

*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

Genesis 21:8-21 Old Testament, p. 16

SERMON

"Ishmael: Inheritor of the Promise" Bob Henderson

Sermon Series: *Epic Tales*

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 692

Spirit, Open My Heart WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

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

Lord of the Small. D. Forrest²

Praise to the Lord for the small, broken things,
who sees the poor sparrow that cannot take wing.
Who loves the lame child and the one in the street,
who comforts their sorrows and washes their feet.

Praise to the Lord of the faint and afraid,
who girds them with courage and lends them his aid;
God pours out his spirit on vessels so weak
that the timid can serve and the silent can speak.

Praise to the Lord of the frail and the ill,
who heals their afflictions or carries them till
they leave this tired frame and to paradise fly,
to never be sick, and never to die.

Praise God, O praise God, all ye who yet live,
who've been given so much and can so little give,
our frail, lisping praise God will never despise.
God sees his dear children through mercy-filled eyes.

~ Summer Choir ~

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 817

We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight DUNLAP’S CREEK

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Fanfare. T. Dubois

Notes:

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister
Mary Kate Sykes, pastoral resident, education
Courtney Shudak, pastoral resident, mission and outreach
Lee Northcutt, guest organist
Lamar Davis, interim choral conductor
Summer Choir
Sherry Ward, carillon

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 23)

Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Maggie and Josh Eidson

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Marilyn Turner Hedgpeth

December 24, 1953 - July 23, 2025

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

OUR SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO

Alexandra and Tyler Morton and their family on the death of her father Martin Carstarphen on July 13.

Mary Ellen Vernon and her family on the death of her mother Edith Shoffner Vernon on July 17.

Emily and Adam Schauer and their family on the death of her mother Marilyn T. Hedgpeth on July 23.

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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This service is being streamed live and recorded for online viewing at CovenantPresby.org/live.

If you would not like to keep this bulletin, please recycle it in the bins located in the narthex.



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www.CovenantPresby.org