



COVENANT

presbyterian church

To the Greater Glory of God

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, August 24, 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, August 24, 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

PRELUDE

Suite for a Sunday Morning R. Cundick

I. Prelude II. Air III. Recessional

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Mary Kate Sykes

*HYMN OF PRAISE 1

Holy, Holy, Holy NICAEA

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

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)

Holy God, you call our names but too often our heads are full of distractions. You invite us into the holy mystery of your grace, but our ears are tuned to a different song. Forgive us when we look for you in all the wrong places such as our own expectations, our own limited vision, and the places we long to go. Forgive us when our hearts turn inwards in search of your presence and turn our hearts outward to the expanse of your grace. Give us courage to choose the hard wrong over the easy right and grant us your grace for the journey. In Christ we pray, 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.

**You are invited to rise in body or spirit*

***PASSING THE PEACE**

ENCOUNTER GOD’S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Courtney Shudak

Following the time with young disciples children in grades Kindergarten and older may follow our education team to the Recreation Wing to participate in the Blessing of the Backpacks. Children will return to the worship service with the education team at the end of the service. Parents are welcome to take children ages 0 through 5 to the nursery on the first floor of the Education Wing. All children are always welcome to worship in the Sanctuary.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 3:1-12 Old Testament, p. 236

SERMON

“Here I Am - Still Learning to Listen” Grace Lindvall
Sermon Series: *Epic Tales of The Bible*

***HYMN OF RESPONSE 312**

Take Us As We Are, O God **ENDLESS FEAST**

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.**

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Imani Harper, Highland Renaissance Academy Principal
Karen Ely, The Epiphany School of Charlotte Principal

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult S. Tucker²

Jesus calls us o’er the tumult of our life’s wild, restless sea.
Day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying “Christian, follow me.”
As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus’ sake.
Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world’s golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, “Christian, love me more.”
In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these.”
Jesus calls us! By your mercies, Savior may we hear thy call,
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

~ Summer Choir; Emily Schauer, flutist ~

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 697 (verses 1,2,5,6)

Take My Life..... HENDON

*BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Allegro (from The Four Seasons)..... A. Vivaldi

Notes:

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

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

Blessing of the Backpacks

As a new school year begins, we join together in prayer for God's blessing to go before and alongside our children. In both the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services today, we will celebrate our joyful tradition of the *Blessing of the Backpacks*. Children of Covenant are invited to bring their backpacks forward for a blessing, and we will also bless the backpacks being donated to our partner sites: Crossnore (Avery County), The Mezzanine, Charlotte Family Housing, and Highland Renaissance Academy.

Through your generosity, Covenant's supply drive collected enough supplies for 175 backpacks. Today, our children and youth will fill them during worship, and together as a congregation, we will pray over them at the close of each service. We give thanks for this tradition of sending our children—and these backpacks—into the year with love, prayer, and blessing.

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Marilyn Hedgpeth.

Flowers in the Narthex

Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Brenda Moricle.

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 August 20*)
Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:

OUR SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO
Laura and John Beyer on the death of her father
Joseph Murray Turner on August 16.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Edna Bacon
Donna Goodwin
Frank Mansfield
Bucky Renner
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