



COVENANT

presbyterian church

*To the Greater Glory of God*

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, August 31, 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 31, 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.

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## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

### PRELUDE

*Hymn to Joy* ..... arr. W. Wold

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Mary Kate Sykes

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE 611

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* ..... HYMN TO JOY

### \*PRAYER OF ADORATION

## PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

### \*CHORAL CALL TO CONFESSION

*Search Me, O God* ..... SURSUM CORDA<sup>1</sup>

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, we compare ourselves with others, wondering if we are better than them. We judge one another, trying to justify ourselves. We seek to establish our superiority by assuming positions of honor. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to see ourselves truthfully and to love one another with humble, gracious spirits. Amen.<sup>2</sup>

### \*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

\*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

## ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES ..... Grace Lindvall

*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

Mark 12:28-34 ..... New Testament, p. 46

SERMON

"Still All In?" ..... Serenity Taylor

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 711

*Lord of All Good* ..... TOULON

## 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

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* ..... M. Hayes<sup>3</sup>

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth  
flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
bear me through the swelling current, land me safe on Canaan's  
side; songs of praises I will ever give to thee.

~ Summer Choir ~

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

### \*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 547

*Go, My Children, With My Blessing* . . . . . AR HYD Y NOS

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

*Go, My Children* . . . . . arr. W. Pelz

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*Notes:*

# THE WORSHIP SERVICE

## Leading Worship this Morning

Grace Lindvall, associate minister, education  
Mary Kate Sykes, pastoral resident, education  
Serenitye Taylor, associate minister, congregational life  
Emily Floyd, director of traditional music  
Mark Glaeser, organist  
Summer Choir  
Emily Reinicker, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 27*)  
*Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:*

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Justin Casey  
Erin Osborne

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Edna McLain Bacon  
April 21, 1939 - August 25, 2025

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

**OUR SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO**

Allan Bacon, Alex and Bruce Bacon, Doug and Julie Bacon and  
their family on the death of Allan, Bruce and Doug's mother.

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING**

Donna Goodwin  
Frank Mansfield  
Walker Morrison  
Dottie Stowe

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Stay up to date by visiting [covenantpresby.org/congregational-notes](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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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1 © text by Ian Pitt-Watson; music by Alfred Morton Smith

2 L. Roger Owens and Presbyterian Outlook

3 © 1996 Beckenhorst Press

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[www.CovenantPresby.org](https://www.CovenantPresby.org)