



*To the Greater Glory of God*  
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
AND COMMUNION

Sunday, September 14, 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 AND COMMUNION

Sunday, September 14, 2025  
11:00 a.m.

Welcome to Covenant; we are glad you are here. Children are always welcome in worship. Childcare and children’s programs (ages 6 weeks to fifth grade) are offered in the Education Wing. 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

Partita on “I Want to Walk”..... J. Behnke  
I. Theme II. Cantabile III. Fantasia

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP..... Serenity Taylor

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God ..... ELLACOMBE

\*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)

Liturgist: God of grace, deliver us.  
People: From evil, even when it masquerades as good,  
Liturgist: God of grace, deliver us.  
People: From selfishness and vain desires,  
Liturgist: God of grace, deliver us.  
People: From irresponsible behaviors, quarreling, and jealousy,  
Liturgist: God of grace, deliver us.  
People: From hurtful disagreements and irreconcilable differences,  
Liturgist: God of grace, deliver us.  
People: Turn us away from the death sin inflicts. Lead us into  
the abundant life Christ brings. Forgive us, we pray, and  
teach us to forgive, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

\*Congregational Response 587 (choir and congregation)  
Alleluia! .....CELTIC ALLELUIA<sup>2</sup>  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

**\*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.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 8:22-26 . . . . .New Testament, p. 41

**SERMON**

“An Ethic of Peace Dialogue” . . . . . Bob Henderson and Mitri Raheb  
Sermon Series: *Discern. Decide. Declare.*

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 451**

*Open My Eyes, That I May See. . . . .*OPEN MY EYES

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**MINUTE FOR MINISTRY . . . . .My Heart Knows**

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Like a River in My Soul . . . . .* T. Osiek

I’ve got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.  
I’ve got peace like a river, soothing river, calmly flow.  
When the world closes in, feel the stillness within.  
I’ve got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.  
I’ve got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul.  
I’ve got love like an ocean, endless ocean, deep and full.  
When you’re lost and alone, let the waves bring you home.  
I’ve got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul.  
I’ve got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.  
I’ve got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.  
When your hope nearly dies, just remember, once again you shall  
rise!  
I’ve got joy like a fountain, love like an ocean, peace like a river in my  
soul.  
~ Covenant Choir ~

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (responsive)**

Liturgist: The Lord be with you;  
**People: And also with you.**  
Liturgist: Lift up your hearts;  
**People: We lift them to the Lord**  
Liturgist: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;  
**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*You are invited to take communion by intinction. With the ushers’ guidance, please come down the center aisle, take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup, and return to your seat by the side aisle. Gluten-free bread is available at the center station. Those wishing to be served in the pew may signal an usher.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GO IN GOD’S NAME

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN 450

*Be Thou My Vision.* . . . . . SLANE

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Danish Amen* . . . . . Anon. Danish

\*POSTLUDE

*Allegro Moderato* . . . . . D. Johnson

---

# THE WORSHIP SERVICE

## Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister  
Serenity Taylor, associate minister, congregational life  
Courtney Shudak, pastoral resident, mission and outreach  
Emily Floyd, director of traditional worship  
Mark Glaeser, organist  
Covenant Choir  
Lorna Graves, carillon

We welcome to worship this morning Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, a Palestinian Christian, pastor, scholar, and founder of Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem, Palestine. A frequent visitor and friend of this congregation, Dr. Raheb is the most widely published Palestinian theologian, an advocate for justice and peace, and a visionary leader committed to education, culture, and interfaith dialogue. We are grateful for his presence among us today.

## 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.

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 September 10*)  
*Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO**

Kelsey and David Pirie on the birth of their child  
Dawson George Pirie on September 3.  
Laura and Conor Starr on the birth of their child  
Elliot Michael Starr on August 31.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Domenica and Brian Barrett (Josie and CeCe)

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING**

Donna Goodwin  
Frank Mansfield  
Walker Morrison  
Dottie Stowe

...

Stay up to date by visiting [covenantpresby.org/congregational-notes](http://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.

All choral texts are reprinted under ONE LICENSE (#A-730583)

1 © text by Ian Pitt-Watson; music by Alfred Morton Smith

2 © 1985 OCP

This service is being streamed live and recorded for online viewing at [CovenantPresby.org/live](http://CovenantPresby.org/live).

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



1000 E. Morehead Street | Charlotte, NC 28204 | 704-333-9071  
[www.CovenantPresby.org](http://www.CovenantPresby.org)