



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

Sunday, January 4, 2026
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, January 4, 2026
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

Celebration C. Callahan

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP.....Katherine Kerr

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World TEMPLE OF PEACE

*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)

Gracious and loving God, we approach you today with good intentions and sincere questions, yet also with caution—protecting our reputations, our certainties, and the stories we tell ourselves. We admire Jesus from a safe distance, drawn to his wisdom, impressed by his insight, but hesitant to be changed by him. We cling to conversation without conversion, illumination without disruption, new ideas without new birth. Forgive us for staying in the shadows when you invite us to live in the light, for mistaking caution for wisdom, and fear for faithfulness. Breathe your Spirit into us again so that we might trust that transformation is grace, not loss, and that new life—your life—is the gift we most need. In the name of Jesus Christ, who meets us in the night and leads us into the day. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 587 (*choir and congregation*)

Alleluia! CELTIC ALLELUIA²
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*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

Isaiah 60:1-6 Old Testament, p. 648

Matthew 2:1-12 New Testament, p. 1

SERMON Father Greg Boyle

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF PRAISE 450

Be Thou My Vision. SLANE

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

All Things New E. Hagenberg³

Light after darkness, gain after loss,
strength after weakness, crown after cross;

Sweet after bitter, hope after fears,
home after wandering, praise after tears.

Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end,

God is making all things new,
springs of living water shall wash away each tear.

God is making all things new, God is making all things new.

Sight after mystery, oh sun after rain,

Joy after sorrow, peace after pain;

Near after distant, gleam after gloom,

Love after loneliness, life after tomb.

Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end,

God is making all things new,

Springs of living water shall wash away each tear.

God is making all things new, God is making all things new.

~ ~ *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...

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

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.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Come to the Table of Grace.B. Hamm
Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.
Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.
Come to the table of hope. Come to the table of hope.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of hope.
~ Cora Watson, soloist ~
Spirit, Open My Heart.A. Fedak⁴
Refrain: *Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.*
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.
God, replace my stony heart with a heart that’s kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.
Refrain
Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought and word and deed, may my living bring your glory.
Refrain
May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.
~ Covenant Choir ~

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness. . . . CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Danish AmenAnon. Danish

*POSTLUDE

Tell Out My SoulP. Manz

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister

Father Greg Boyle

Katherine Kerr, senior associate minister, congregational care

Courtney Shudak, pastoral resident, mission and outreach

Emily Floyd, director of traditional music

Mark Glaeser, organist

Covenant Choir

Ben Unger, carillon

Covenant gladly welcomes Father Greg Boyle. Father Boyle is the founder and Executive Director of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program in the United States. His dedication to finding a place for all in our society brought him to the Boyle Heights community of East Los Angeles, where he served as pastor of Dolores Mission Church, from 1986 through 1992. It was there that Father Greg started what would become Homeboy Industries, a nonprofit organization that employs and trains former gang-members in social enterprises. Father Greg is the author of several books including *Tattoos on the Heart* and *Cherished Belonging*.

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.

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 Lacy King, Communications Manager, at Lacy.King@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 December 31*)
Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:

CONGRATULATIONS TO
Elizabeth and Andrew Zizzi on the birth of their child
Katherine Creighton Zizzi on December 19.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Deloris Davis
Rebecca DiSandro
Candace Carter-Johnson
Murray Fadial
Rick Peek
Elaine Scoles
Dottie Stowe

...

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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4 © 2016 Birmwood Publications

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