



# COVENANT

presbyterian church

*To the Greater Glory of God*

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 18, 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

Sunday, January 18, 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

*The Rejoicing*..... C. Callahan

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

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE 339

*Lift Every Voice And Sing* ..... LIFT EVERY VOICE

### \*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 CONFESSON

### CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, it's tempting to give up and give in, to avert our gaze from the injustices of the world, to protect ourselves and our own, and turn away from the tumult and pain of our world.

Forgive our sins of escape, of ignoring the vulnerable, those in need, and the multitude who live in constant fear. Forgive our sins of apathy when you call us to action.

Renew us, Holy God, by your grace, and strengthen us to follow Christ's call. 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'ry day.

God's mercies are new ev'ry day. God's mercies are new ev'ry day.

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

## ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

### TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

*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: 27-37 ..... New Testament, p. 41

### SERMON

“Follow the Leader” ..... Bob Henderson  
Sermon Series: *Discern. Decide. Declare.*

## RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE 729

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian ..... I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN*

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *From “A Declaration of Faith” (unison)*

Jesus' involvement in the human condition is God's involvement.  
His compassion for all kinds of people is God's compassion.  
His demand for justice, truth, and faithfulness is God's demand.  
His willingness to suffer rejection is God's willingness.  
Jesus' love for the very people who reject him is God's love.

### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

### OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Grant Us Thy Peace ..... F. Mendelssohn, ed. O. Christiansen  
Grant us Thy peace, almighty Lord,  
Thou source of every blessing.  
Feeble and frail, trust we Thy word,  
All things in Thee possessing.  
In Thee is our hope and safety.  
~ Covenant Choir ~

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

### \*RECESSATIONAL HYMN 747

*The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* ..... ENVIADO

### \*BENEDICTION

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

### \*POSTLUDE

*Allegro Moderato* ..... G. F. Handel

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Notes:

# THE WORSHIP SERVICE

## Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister

Katherine Kerr, senior associate minister, congregational care

Emily Floyd, director of traditional music

Mark Glaeser, organist

Covenant Choir

Sherry Ward, 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.

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](mailto: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](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 January 14)

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

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Steven Buchanan Shockley  
May 28, 1947 - January 10, 2026

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

## OUR SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO

Lecia and Zane Shockley, Kohl Eisenschmidt and Mauryn Eisenschmidt and their family on the death of Lecia's husband, Zane's father and Kohl and Mauryn's stepfather Steve Shockley.

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Candace Carter-Johnson

Deloris Davis

Murray Fadial

Dottie Stowe

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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.

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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.



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