



COVENANT

presbyterian church

To the Greater Glory of God

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND COMMUNION

Sunday, January 4, 2026

8:45 a.m.

CHAPEL

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
8:45 a.m.

Welcome to Covenant; we are glad you are here. Children are always welcome in worship. Childcare (ages 6 weeks to Kindergarten) is offered in the Education Wing. See an usher for assistance.

GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

Celebration C. Callahan

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Serenitye Taylor

*HYMN OF PRAISE 450

Be Thou My Vision. SLANE

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

CALL TO CONFESSION

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 ALLELUIA¹

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PASSING THE PEACE

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Day by Day..... M. Hayes²

Day by day, and with each passing moment,
strength I find to meet my trials here;
trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure
gives unto each day what He deems best.
Lovingly, it's part of pain and pleasure,
mingling toil with peace and rest.

Ev'ry day the Lord Himself is near me
with a special mercy for each hour;
all my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He whose name is Counselor and Pow'r.
The protection of His child and treasure
is a charge that on Himself He laid.
"As your days, your strength shall be in measure,"
this the pledge to me He made.

Help me then in ev'ry tribulation
so to trust Your promises, O Lord,
that I lose not faith's sweet consolation
offered me within Your holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
e'er to take, as from a father's hand,
one by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
till I reach the promised land.

~ Lauren Russell, soprano ~

ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-12 New Testament, p. 88

SERMON

"Start Anew" Bob Henderson
Sermon Series: *Discern. Decide. Declare.*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

HYMN OF PREPARATION 516

For the Bread Which You Have Broken KINGDOM

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
3 With the saints who now a - dore you seat - ed

wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
at the heaven - ly board, may the church still wait - ing

spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.

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

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 306

Blest Be the Tie That BindsDENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Tell Out My SoulP. Manz

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister

Serenitye Taylor, associate minister, congregational life

Emily Floyd, director of traditional music

Mark Glaeser, organist

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.

Assistive listening devices are available from the ushers. Audio-induction hearing loops are installed in the chapel 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 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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