



To the Greater Glory of God
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

9:30 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, March 31, 2024

9:30 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.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music

Death In His Grave J.M. Macmillan¹

Although the earth cried out for blood
Satisfied her hunger was
Billows calmed on raging seas
For the souls of men she craved
Sun and moon from balcony
Turned their head in disbelief
Precious Love would taste the sting
Disfigured and disdained
On Friday a thief on Sunday a King
Laid down in grief but woke with the keys
Of hell on that day first born of the slain
The Man Jesus Christ laid death in His grave
So three days in darkness slept
The Morning Son of righteousness
But rose to shame the throes of death
And overturn His rule
Now daughters and the sons of men
Would pay not their dues again
The debt of blood they owed was rent
When the day He rolled a new
He has cheated hell and seated us above the fall
In desperate places He paid our wages
One time once and for all

Mary Don't You Weep Public Domain

Oh Mary don't you weep, Oh Martha don't you moan
Pharaoh's Army, All of them men got drowned in the sea one day
Now if I could, If I could I surly would
I'd stand right up on the rock, I'd stand right where Moses stood
We gonna review the story of two sisters
Called Mary and Martha
They had a brother, Named Lazarus
Their dear ol' brother died, Well now Mary went running to Jesus
She said, "Master,
"Oh if you had've been here my brother wouldn't have died!"
Jesus said, "come on and show me, show me where you,
show me where you buried him, show me where you laid him down!"
And when he got there, Jesus said,
"For the benefit of you who don't believe,
I'm gone call this creature, oh yes I am!
He said "Lazarus, Hear my Hear my voice! Lazarus!
He got up walking like a natural man,
oh yes he did! Jesus said,
"Now now now, Go on home and don't you and your sister moan.
Tell Martha not to moan."

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

Oh Happy Day E. Hawkins²

Oh happy day, When Jesus washed
He washed my sins away (oh happy day)
He taught me how to watch, fight and pray, fight and pray
And live rejoicing every day, every day

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

Call To Worship Luke 24: 1-5

**Christ The Lord Is Risen Today* C. Wesley, S. Arnold, K. Parks³

**O Praise The Name (Anástasis)* Hastings, Ussher, Sampson⁴

**Prayer of Adoration* Serenitye Taylor

PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

**Easter Affirmation*

Liturgist: O God, early in the morning when the world was young,
People: you made life in all its beauty and terror; you gave birth to
all we know.

All: Thank you God for your creative goodness.

Liturgist: Early in the morning, when the world least expected it,
People: a new born child crying in a manger announced that you
had come among us, that you were one of us.

All: Thank you God for coming to be among us, living our lives,
knowing our pain and experiencing our joy.

Liturgist: Early in the morning surrounded by self-interested
religious leaders, anxious civic officials and silent friends, you
accepted the penalty for doing good, for being Immanuel, God-
with-us.

People: You shouldered, carried and suffered the cross while those
about you jeered and cheered.

All: And it concerns us dear God with whom would we have stood
had we been there on that perilous day.

Liturgist: Early in the morning a voice in a guarded graveyard and
footsteps in the dew proclaimed that you had risen from the
dead;

People: announced the startling news that you had come back to
claim as your beloved own, those who had forgotten, denied
and destroyed you.

All: Thank you God for such death-defeating extravagant love. On
this resurrection day, we dare ask you to pry open our hearts
to let such love transform and change us, this and every day.
Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy E. Hawkins⁵

Holy holy holy, Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
in earth and sky and sea
Holy holy holy, Merciful and mighty
God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity

Time with Young Disciples Mary Kate Sykes
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.

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

Ain’t No Grave Ely, Skaggs, J.D.Helser, M. Helser⁶
Shame is a prison as cruel as a grave
Shame is a robber and he’s come to take my name
Love is my redeemer lifting me up from the ground
Love is the power where my freedom song is found
There ain’t no grave gonna hold my body down
When I hear that trumpet sound
I’m gonna rise up out of the ground
There ain’t no grave gonna hold my body down
Fear is a liar with a smooth and velvet tongue
Fear is a tyrant he’s always telling me to run
Love is resurrection and love is a trumpet sound
Love is my weapon I’m gonna take my giants down
There was a battle a war between death and life
There on a tree the Lamb of God was crucified
He went on down to hell He took back every key
He rose up as a lion
Now He’s setting all the captives free
There ain’t no grave could hold His body down
When He heard the trumpet sound
He rose up out of the ground
There ain’t no grave could hold His body down

GOD’S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Scripture Reading

John 20:1-18 New Testament, p. 108-109

Sermon

“Dirty Nails” Bob Henderson
Sermon Series: *Grounded & Growing*

*Song of Response

In Christ Alone K. Getty, S. Townend⁷

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*Invitation and Benediction

**Ain’t No Grave. Ely, Skaggs, J.D.Helser, M. Helser⁸*

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister

Mary Kate Sykes, pastoral resident, education

Serenity Taylor, pastoral resident, congregational life and care

Shea Watts, director, contemporary worship and arts

Ricko Hill, assistant director of contemporary worship and arts

Sharing the Gifts of Music

Amber Brown (vocals), Jackson Daisley (electric guitar), Jamelia Davis (vocals), Paul Fisher (drums), LaVita Hill (vocals), Cheryl Hoover (bass guitar and vocals), Phillip Howe (keys), Clark Humphries (vocals), Mollie James (vocals), Phil Koonce (electric guitar), Bill Saunders (trumpet), Shannon Shook (vocals), Shea Watts (acoustic guitar)

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.

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.



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 are grateful for your support.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES (As of March 27)

Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Chuck and Thomas Porter who welcomed their son
Henry Matthew Porter on March 24, 2024.
Mary Neal and Ryan Bailey on the birth of their
daughter Sloan Ray Bailey on March 22, 2024.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Jodi Malone

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Sylvia M. Thompson
July 13, 1932 - March 22, 2024

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

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Sybil Campbell
Nathan Doty

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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 Michelle.Williamson@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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