



COVENANT

presbyterian church

To the Greater Glory of God

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
AND COMMUNION

Sunday, January 4, 2026

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 AND COMMUNION

Sunday, January 4, 2026

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.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music

I Thank God Moses, Butler, Bowe, et al.¹
Wandering into the night, wanting a place to hide
This weary soul, this bag of bones
I try with all of my might
But I just can't win the fight
I'm slowly drifting, a vagabond
And just when I ran out of the road
I met a man I didn't know
And He told me that I was not alone
You picked me up, You turned me around
And placed my feet on solid ground
I thank the Master, I thank the Savior
Because You healed my heart, You changed my name
Forever free, I'm not the same
I thank the Master, I thank the Savior, I thank God
I cannot deny what I've seen
Got no choice but to believe
My doubts are burnin' like ashes in the wind
So so long to my old friends, burden and bitterness
You can just keep them moving
Nah, you ain't welcome here
From now till I walk streets of gold
I'll sing of how You saved my soul
This wayward son has found his way back home
Love wins for everyone
I am free

Welcome and Call to Worship Katherine Kerr

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

**Firm Foundation (He Won't)* A. Davis, C. Moore, C. Carnes²
(worship team and congregation)

**Prayer of Adoration*

PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Eagle's Wings R. Morgan³
(worship team and congregation)
Come live in me, All my life take over
Come breathe in me, And I will rise
On eagle's wings

Assurance of Grace

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.

Congregational Life and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Unwritten N. Bedingfield, D. Brisebois, and W. Rodrigues⁴
I am unwritten, can't read my mind, I'm undefined
I'm just beginning, the pen's in my hand, ending unplanned
Staring at the blank page before you, open up the dirty window
Let the sun illuminate the words that you could not find
Reaching for something in the distance, so close you can almost taste it
Release your inhibitions
Feel the rain on your skin - no one else can feel it for you
Only you can let it in
No one else, no one else can speak the words on your lips
Drench yourself in words unspoken
live your life with arms wide open
Today is where your book begins ,the rest is still unwritten
I break tradition, sometimes my tries are outside the lines
We've been conditioned, to not make mistakes, but I can't live that way
Staring at the blank page before you, open up the dirty window
Let the sun illuminate the words that you could not find
Reaching for something in the distance, so close you can almost taste it
Release your inhibitions, the rest is still unwritten

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

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

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

Who You Say I Am B. Fielding, R. Morgan⁵

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?

I was lost, but He brought me in

Oh, His love for me

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed

I'm a child of God, yes I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me

His grace runs deep

While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me

Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed

I'm a child of God, yes I am

In my Father's house, there's a place for me

I'm a child of God, yes I am

I am chosen, not forsaken

I am who You say I am

You are for me, not against me

I am who You say I am

I am chosen, not forsaken

I am who You say I am

You are for me, not against me

I am who You say I am

I am chosen, not forsaken

I am who You say I am

You are for me, not against me

I am who You say I am

Oh, I am who You say I am

Yes, I am who You say I am

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed

I'm a child of God, yes I am

In my Father's house, there's a place for me

I'm a child of God, yes I am

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Invitation and Benediction

*Benediction Response

**For I Know* R. Muchow⁶

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister

Katherine Kerr, senior associate minister, congregational care

Courtney Shudak, pastoral resident, mission and outreach

Ben Thomas, interim contemporary band leader

Tameka Thomas, interim contemporary worship leader

Ricko Hill, assistant director of contemporary worship and arts

Sharing the Gifts of Music

Jackson Daisley (electric guitar), Paul Fisher (drums), Katrina Heath (vocals), Cheryl Hoover (bass guitar and vocals), Mollie James (vocals), Phil Koonce (electric guitar), Ben Thomas (keys), Tameka Thomas (vocals).

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.

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.

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

1 © 2021 Maverick City Music

2 © 2021 For Humans Publishing; Maverick City Publishing; A.L.K.D. Music; Capitol CMG Paragon; Writer's Roof Publishing

3 © 1998 Hillsong Publishing

4 © EMI Blackwood Music Inc., Wsrj Music, and EMI Music Publishing Ltd.

5 © 2020 Hillsong Church T/A Hillsong Music Australia

6 © 1993, 1996 Rick Muchow (Encouraging Music)

This service is being streamed live and recorded for online viewing at 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