



covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



September 6, 2026 – 10am

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE

"Guide My Feet" arr. Larson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise Sacred Interdependence,

People: all you plants, minerals, and animal siblings, all you mushrooms, and carpets of moss.

Leader: Praise Holy Aliveness,

People: all you people of earth—every age, gender, shape and size.

Leader: Praise Unfurling Creativity,

People: all you awe-inspiring creatures of the sea, you soaring creatures of the sky.

Leader: Praise God for the gift of life!

*Please rise in body or spirit



The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love and compassion,
you have come into the world
and yet we have not recognized you.
Forgive our lack of insight
and open our eyes to see you here and now,
that we may receive your grace
through Jesus our Christ. Amen.



(Silence for personal confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN #750

“Goodness is Stronger Than Evil”

Recognizing that this text arose from the years of apartheid in South Africa adds depth and resonance to its already confident language. Yet these words can also be read as a summary of Christ's death and resurrection, the true basis of our hope that good will triumph over evil.

Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours; victory is ours,
through God who loves us.
Victory is ours, victory is ours,
through God who loves us.



PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN #188

“Jesus Loves Me”

TALK WITH THE CHILDREN



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION



THE SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 1:1-23(NRSVUE)

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**



SERMON

“Practice Resurrection: Infinite Blessing”

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



OFFERTORY

“God of the Deep” by Forrest

*DOXOLOGY #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION



THE LORD’S SUPPER

At Covenant, we believe the Lord's Supper is for everyone. From newborns to our most mature, all are welcome at this table. The Presbyterian Church teaches, “The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding” (Book of Order, W-3.049).

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

“Beautiful Savior” arr. Rouse

*HYMN #475

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"



Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reprise "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Assisting in Worship Today:

Cathy Levy – Liturgist

Jim Eder – Vocalist

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Brian Biller– Media Production Specialist

Erin Wise – Director of Children’s & Youth Ministries

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Bible Study - Wednesday at 1:00pm in the Lounge. Join Bible Study with the QR code.



Centering Prayer- Thursday at 8:30am in the Lounge



The response to the recent calls for donations has been wonderful! **Thank you** all for your exceptional generosity, support, and donations.

- Mark Owen

YOU'RE INVITED

September 16

11:30 AM | LOUNGE
FEATURING BEN POWERS



RSVP:

WITH GERLINDE OR
MEGAN IN THE OFFICE!





GREAT FOOD | GREAT PEOPLE | GREAT FUN!

WELCOME BACK COOKOUT

9.13.26
11am-
12:30pm

Join us for hot dogs, brats, chips, kids activities and MORE!

Please sign up to bring food and/or volunteer by scanning the QR code, following the link, or completing a paper form available at the welcome table or reception desk.



<https://bit.ly/26WelcomeBack>

Invite your friends, family and neighbors!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 19TH

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

3RD SATURDAY
FIRST WATCH KINGS DALE



BEGINNING OCTOBER 3RD

MEN'S STUDY BREAKFAST

1ST SATURDAY
9:00 AM | LOUNGE



CHANCEL CHOIR

All Ages!

Cherie Brooks



CAMPANILE HANDBELL CHOIR

All Ages!

Nan Davidson

JOIN ONE OF OUR MUSIC ENSEMBLES!

CONTACT THE DIRECTOR TO LEARN MORE!



JOYFUL NOISE

3yrs-5th Grade

Katie Wynkoop



YOUTH CHOIR

6th - 12th Grade

Ashley Woodard



CHILDRENS EDUCATION

SUNDAY
9AM | ROOM 115

Children 3 years through 6th grade

**RETURNING
SEPTEMBER 13TH**



ADULT FORUM

SUNDAY
9AM | LOUNGE

**RETURNING
SEPTEMBER 20TH**

9/20 & 9/27:

Hinduism with Seth Josephson, PhD, OSU professor in comparative studies, Dept of Religion



YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY
11AM | ROOM 115

**RETURNING
SEPTEMBER 20TH**

Youth 7th- 12th grade



2070 Ridgecliff Road
Columbus, Ohio 43221
614.451.6677
covenantpcusa.org