



To the Greater Glory of God
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, August 23, 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, August 23, 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 spaces with live video of the worship service are available in the Welcome Center and parlor. See an usher for assistance.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Calm As the Night K. Bohm, arr. S. Mitchell Wallace & J. Head

~ Michelle Kraak, trumpet; Dr. Catherine Hicks, organ ~

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Katherine Kerr

*OPENING HYMN 1

Holy Holy Holy NICAEA

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

CHORAL CALL TO CONFESSION

For the Troubles and the Sufferings. . . PELAS DORES DESTE MUNDO¹

For the troubles and the sufferings of the world,

God, we call upon your mercy; the whole creation's laboring in pain!

Lend an ear to the rising cry for help from oppressed and
hopeless people; Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!

We pray for peace, the blessed peace that comes from making justice,
to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, Lord!

We pray for power, the power that will sustain your people's witness;
until your Kingdom come, Kyrie Eleison.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in
thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we
have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and
mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we
are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (choir and congregation)

Alleluia! CELTIC ALLELUIA²

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PASSING THE PEACE

ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Courtney Shudak

Following Time with Young Disciples, children grades Kindergarten and older are invited to follow our volunteers to the Recreation Wing to participate in the Blessing of the Backpacks. Children will return to the worship service with the education team at the end of the service. Parents are welcome to take children ages 0 through 5 to the nursery on the first floor of the Education Wing. All children are always welcome to worship in the Sanctuary.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-12 New Testament, p. 4

Hebrews 11:1 New Testament, p. 211

SERMON

"Oh, the Happiness Of..." Bob Henderson

Sermon Series: *Encounters with Jesus*

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 372

O for a World AZMON

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CONCERNS. Mary Kate Sykes

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.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Imani Harper, Highland Renaissance Academy Principal

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah M. Hayes³

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;

I am weak, but Thou art mighty: hold me with Thy powerful hand;

bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me 'till I want no more,

feed me 'till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;

let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;

strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be Thou still my strength and shield,

be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;

bear me through the swelling current, land me safe on Canaan's side;

songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee,

I will ever give to Thee.

~ Summer Choir; Michelle Kraak, trumpet ~

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*CLOSING HYMN 80

You Shall Go Out with JoyTHE TREES OF THE FIELD

*BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

March on “Joyful Song” J. Spong

Notes:

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
Mary Kate Sykes, pastoral resident, education
Emily Floyd, director of traditional music
Dr. Catherine Hicks, interim organist
Summer Choir
Ben Unger, carillon

Blessing of the Backpacks

As a new school year begins, we join together in prayer for God's blessing to go before and alongside our children. In both the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services today, we will celebrate our joyful tradition of the Blessing of the Backpacks. Children of Covenant are invited to bring their backpacks forward for a blessing, and we will also bless the backpacks being donated to our partners: Crossnore (Avery County), The Mezzanine, and Highland Renaissance Academy. Through your generosity, Covenant's supply drive collected enough supplies for 140 backpacks. Today, our children and youth will fill them during worship, and together as a congregation, we will pray over them at the close of each service. We give thanks for this tradition of sending our children—and these backpacks—into the year with love, prayer, and blessing.

Flowers in Sanctuary

Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John Murray Fadial by his family.

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.

Assistive listening devices are available from the ushers. Audio-visual 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 August 19*)
Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Shelby Stanley

OUR SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO

Joan Zimmerman and David and Anja Zimmerman and
their family on the death of Joan's son, David's brother and
Anja's brother-in-law, Robert Zimmerman on August 4.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Candace Carter-Johnson

Deloris Davis

Bucky Renner

Dottie Stowe

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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 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 Grace.Lindvall@CovenantPresby.org. A pastor remains on call for emergency situations (death, sudden hospitalizations, etc.). Please call 704-333-9071.

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www.CovenantPresby.org