



COVENANT

presbyterian church

To the Greater Glory of God

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, August 9, 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 9, 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

Meditation Elegie V. Carnevali

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Katherine Kerr

*OPENING HYMN 409

God is Here ABBOTT'S LEIGH

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

CHORAL CALL TO CONFESSION

Search Me, O God SURSUM CORDA¹

Search me, O God; search me and know my heart;
try me, O God; my mind and spirit try;
keep me from any path that gives you pain,
and lead me in the everlasting way.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that too often we are led by our hunger for certainty. We seek sure answers, slipping past the invitation to abide with you, and we plan our days with personal priorities in mind, pretending that preparation will keep us in control. In doing so, we fail to place our complete trust in you, and we fall short of humbly walking with you. Forgive us for mistaking our ways for yours and remind us that faith is not a matter of correct figures, but of wholehearted trust in you: the way, and the truth, and the life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (*choir and congregation*)

Alleluia! CELTIC ALLELUIA²

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PASSING THE PEACE

ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Grace Lindvall

Beatrice Ann Petitto, child of Amelia and Ben Petitto

Baptism Response (*choir and congregation*)

Children of the Heavenly Father. Swedish Folk Tune

**Children of the heavenly Father, safely in God's bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
Unto them God's grace he showeth and their sorrows all God knoweth.**

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Bob Henderson

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:1-7 New Testament, p. 102

SERMON

"The Anatomy of a Closing" Mary Kate Sykes
Sermon Series: *Encounters with Jesus*

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy IN BABILONE

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CONCERNS

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.**

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Lord is My Shepherd. A. Pote³

The Lord is my shepherd. Nothing shall I want.

My shepherd makes me lie in fields of green,
leads me beside still waters.

The Lord is my shepherd, who restores my life.

Leads me in the paths of righteousness for
the sake of the Lord's name.

And even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your
rod and staff they comfort me.

The Lord is my shepherd, nothing shall I want.

My shepherd makes me lie in fields of green,
leads me beside still waters.

The Lord is my shepherd, who restores my life.

Leads me in the paths of righteousness for
the sake of the Lord's name.

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You annoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy, shall follow me all the days of
my life, and in the house of my God I will live forever.
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
~ Summer Choir ~

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*CLOSING HYMN 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness FAITHFULNESS

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on DARWALL'S 148th. C. Callahan

Notes:

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister
Mary Kate Sykes, pastoral resident, education
Katherine Kerr, senior associate minister, congregational care
Grace Lindvall, associate minister, education
Joshua Cheney, guest choral director
Lee Northcutt, guest organist
Summer Choir
Sherry Ward, carillon

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism with the Petitto Family

Brother: Hugh; sisters: Mary Hall and Rose; great-grandfather: Rev. Dr. Robert L. Montgomery, Sr. of Charlotte, N.C.; grandparents: Robert and Regina Montgomery of Charlotte, N.C., John and Jenny Petitto, of Gainesville, FL; aunts and uncles: Robert Montgomery and Kat Elenberger of Charlotte, N.C., Ruthanne Petitto of New York, NY; great aunt and uncle: Maggie and Eric Loselle of Charlotte, N.C. Lecia Horne stands as Elder with the Petitto family.

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Helen Davis Cathey by her 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-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 August 5*)
Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Candace Carter-Johnson

Deloris Davis

Annabelle Dawson

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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2 © 1985 OCP

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If you would not like to keep this bulletin, please recycle it in the bins located in the narthex.



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