



To the Greater Glory of God
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, September 27, 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, September 27, 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

Prelude in D D. Ficarra

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Mary Kate Sykes

*OPENING HYMN 327

From All That Dwell Below the Skies. LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

CHORAL CALL TO CONFESSION

Spirit of the Living God LIVING GOD¹

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: We confess that we have joined house to house, filling our rooms while our neighbors search for a place to rest. We have kept your table close and small, forgetting that we too were welcomed as guests. We have mistaken our caution for faithfulness and been slow to follow where your Spirit leads. We speak before we listen, and build walls that leave us alone. Who are we to hinder you? Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (*choir and congregation*)

God Is So Good. GOD IS SO GOOD

God is so good. God is so good.

God is so good. God's so good to me.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

Psalm 139Pote²

Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know everything I do.

When I rise up, when I lie down,
you are with me through and through.

Before a word is on my tongue, you know what I will say.

Your presence follows me day by day.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Where can I go to run away?

If I go to heaven, or live in hell, you are there.

Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know everything I do.

When I rise up, when I lie down,
you are with me through and through.

Before a word is on my tongue, you know what I will say.

Your presence follows me day by day.

Search me, O God, and know me.

Try me and know my heart.

See if there be any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

~ *Youth Singers and Covenant Choir* ~

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Serenity Taylor

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

Isaiah 5:8-10 Old Testament, p. 596

Acts 11:1-18 New Testament, p. 122

SERMON

"The Greatest Adventure" Adrian Bird

Sermon Series: *Building What Matters*

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation WESTMINSTER ABBEY

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.

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Living Stones..... Daniel Presa

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sing to the Lord, Rejoice G. Telemann, arr. H. Hopson³

Sing to the Lord, rejoice!

God’s love is steadfast, ever true.

God is faithful from age to age.

O Zion, sing, rejoice!

The Lord brings peace to Zion’s hill.

God’s word goes out to all the land.

All earth rejoice and sing.

All earth rejoice and sing!

~ *Covenant Choir* ~

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*CLOSING HYMN 547

Go My Children With My Blessing AR HYD Y NOS

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Fugue in C..... G. F. Handel

Notes:

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Adrian Bird, guest minister

Mary Kate Sykes, pastoral resident, education

Serenitye Taylor, associate minister, congregational life

Emily Floyd, director of traditional music

Dr. Catherine Hicks, interim organist

Covenant Choir

Sherry Ward, Lorna Graves, Emily Reinicker, Ben Unger, Katie

Cornwell, carillonneurs

Welcome Adrian Bird

Dr. Adrian Bird serves as University Chaplain at Queens University, bringing extensive experience in higher education, ministry, international service, and interfaith engagement. He holds a Ph.D. and Master of Theology from the University of Edinburgh and a Master of Theological Studies from Brite Divinity School. Dr. Bird teaches in the Philosophy and Religion Department at Queens and has served in correctional ministry and interfaith organizations, including Interfaith Partners of South Carolina and MeckMIN. His international ministry includes service with the Church of South India in Kerala, India, and Voluntary Service Overseas in Zimbabwe. Dr. Bird is married to Rev. Julie Walkup-Bird, senior pastor at Sharon Presbyterian Church, and they have two young adult children.

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, Director of Communications, 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 September 23*)
Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Grace and Charlie Rogers on the birth of their child
Hugh Hammond Rogers on September 17.
Katie and Walker Robinson on the birth of their child
Lucy Walker Robinson on September 23.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lamar Davis
Carolyn Kirby
Glenn and Ben King (Wellington)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Linda Gayle Stowe
February 12, 1944 – June 25, 2026

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

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Rebecca DiSandro
Candace Carter-Johnson
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 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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www.CovenantPresby.org