



COVENANT

presbyterian church

To the Greater Glory of God

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND
COMMUNION

Sunday, September 6, 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 AND COMMUNION

Sunday, September 6, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Welcome to Covenant; we are glad you are here. Children are always welcome in worship. Childcare (ages 6 weeks to 5 years) is 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 on LAUDA ANIMA. F. Ashdown

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Katherine Kerr

*OPENING HYMN 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven. LAUDA ANIMA

*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.

~ *Aj Calpo, soloist, Summer Choir* ~

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Creator God, we confess we have turned tilling into toiling, care into grasping, stewardship into greed. We have built our security on the backs of others, denying our neighbors the rest you meant as birthright. We have worshiped what our hands have made, and forgotten the God who made our hands. We have forgotten that you called us very good before we had done anything at all. Forgive us for forgetting Sabbath for ourselves, and for our complicity in systems that make Sabbath inaccessible to our neighbors. Teach us to rest in our homes and in our world, to till your world faithfully, without greed, and to care for all your creatures, the land, the animals, and one another, as you first cared for us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 587 (*choir and congregation*)

Alleluia!. CELTIC ALLELUIA

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PASSING THE PEACE

ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

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

Genesis 1:26-2:15 (selected verses) Old Testament p. 1-2

Psalms 127:2 Old Testament p. 541

SERMON

"Till Not Toil" Courtney Shudak

Sermon Series: *Encounters with Jesus*

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 22

God of the Sparrow ROEDER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Liturgist: How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

People: We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God that nothing in creation will separate us from God's love. For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without God's will they can neither move nor be moved.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth J. Rutter²

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for
the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord
of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill
and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent child, friends
on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine, to our children freely given,
graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

~ *Summer Choir* ~

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (responsive)

Liturgist: The Lord be with you;
People: And also with you.
Liturgist: Lift up your hearts;
People: We lift them to the Lord
Liturgist: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise...

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

Ukuthula South African Prayer for Peace³
Ukuthula kulomhlaba wezono, Peace in this sinful world
Igazi lika Jesu linyenyez ukuthula, The blood of Jesus shouts peace
~ Summer Choir ~
There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy C. Hampton⁴
There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There’s a kindness in God’s justice which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgment given.
There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good.
There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this.
There is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.
For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.
~ Summer Choir ~

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GO IN GOD’S NAME

***CLOSING HYMN 623**
I’ve Got Peace like a RiverPEACE LIKE A RIVER
***BENEDICTION**
***POSTLUDE**
Festive Trumpet Tune. D. German

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Katherine Kerr, senior associate minister, congregational care
Courtney Shudak, pastoral resident, mission and outreach
Emily Floyd, director of traditional music
Dr. Catherine Hicks, guest organist
Summer Choir
Lorna Graves, carillon

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 2*)
Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Scott and Kindl Detar (Bobby, Sam and Beck)
Philip Dusek

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Candace Carter-Johnson
Deloris Davis
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 Grace.Lindvall@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 © 2004 General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik

2 © 1980 Oxford University Press

3 public domain

4 © 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

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