



COVENANT

presbyterian church

To the Greater Glory of God

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, March 8, 2026

8:45 a.m.

CHAPEL

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, March 8, 2026

8:45 a.m.

Welcome to Covenant; we are glad you are here. Children are always welcome in worship. Childcare (ages 6 weeks to Kindergarten) is offered in the Education Wing. See an usher for assistance.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in G Minor J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Andy Wertz

*HYMN OF PRAISE 826

Lift High the Cross CRUCIFER

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not always loved as you call us to love. We have been slow to notice the lonely, hesitant to serve the vulnerable, and reluctant to share the burdens of those who suffer. We have chosen comfort over compassion, judgment over understanding, and convenience over presence. Forgive us for the ways we turn inward in an attempt to protect ourselves and our concerns instead of risking something to show your love. Strengthen and renew us that we may care for one another with humility, courage, and steadfast love, as you witnessed for us and all humanity through Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 658

God Is So Good GOD IS SO GOOD¹
**God is so good; God is so good;
God is so good; God's so good to me.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

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

Amazing Grace arr. C. Courtney²
 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
 I once was lost but now am found; was blind but now I see.
 Amazing grace! Amazing grace! So vast and yet so free!
 The son of God, the righteous one, is crucified for me.
 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
 how precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.
 Amazing grace! Amazing grace! So vast and yet so free!
 The son of God, the righteous one, is crucified for me.
 Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.
 Amazing grace! Amazing grace! So vast and yet so free.
 The son of God, the righteous one, is crucified for me.
 ~ Lauren Russell, soprano ~

ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:1-6, 32-44 New Testament, p. 98-99

SERMON

"The Moment of Friendship: Choosing Presence in Pain" . . . Katherine Kerr
 Sermon Series: *Discern. Decide. Declare.*

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 796

We Come to You for Healing, Lord LAND OF REST

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Recessional on "Duke Street" R. Hobby

Notes:

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Katherine Kerr, senior associate minister, congregational care

Andy Wertz, director of middle school youth ministries and seminary intern

Emily Floyd, director of traditional music

Mark Glaeser, organist

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. We will gladly host meetings in the Welcome Center upon request.

Assistive listening devices are available from the ushers.

Audio-induction hearing loops are installed in the chapel 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 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 March 4)

Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Michelle and Bryan Kraak on the birth of their child Mateo Kraak on March 2.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mary Phillips (Elise)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Joan Louise (Jodi) Malone
May 29, 1952 - February 26, 2026

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

OUR SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO

Betsy Cardone and her family on the death of her mother Jodi Malone on February 26.

Mary and John Gaertner and their family on the death of her mother Lorraine Carruthers on February 27.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Candace Carter-Johnson

Deloris Davis

Murray Fadiel

Jim Leathers

Dottie Stowe

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Stay up to date by visiting [covenantpresby.org/congregational-notes](https://www.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