



COVENANT

presbyterian church

To the Greater Glory of God

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, August 23, 2026

9:30 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

9:30 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

Gathering Music

We Are Going to Be Friends. J. Jackson¹

Fall is here, hear the yell, back to school, ring the bell
Brand new shoes, walking blues, climb the fence, books and pens
I can tell that we are going to be friends
Yes, I can tell that we are going to be friends
Walk with me, Suzy Lee, through the park and by the tree
We can rest upon the ground, and look at all the bugs we've found
We safely walk to school without a sound
Well, here we are no one else, we walk to school all by ourselves
There's dirt on our uniforms, from chasing all the ants and worms
We clean up and now it's time to learn
Numbers letters learn to spell, nouns and books and show and tell
Play time we will throw the ball, then back to class through the hall
The teacher marks our height against the wall
And we don't notice any time pass, because we don't notice anything
And we sit side by side in every class,
The teacher thinks that I sound funny, but she likes it when you sing
Tonight I'll dream in my bed
While silly thoughts run through my head
Of the bugs and alphabet, and when I wake tomorrow I'll bet
That you and I will walk together again
Because I can tell that we are going to be friends
Yes, I can tell that we are going to be friends

Best Day of My Life A. Accetta and S. Goodman²

I had a dream so big and loud
I jumped so high, I touched the clouds
Woah-oh-oh-oh, oh, oh-oh, oh
I stretched my hands out to the sky
We danced with monsters through the night
Woah-oh-oh-oh, oh, oh-oh, oh
I'm never gonna look back, woah
I'm never gonna give it up, no
Please don't wake me now
This is gonna be the best day of my life; My li-i-i-i-i-i-ife
I howled at the moon with friends
And then the sun came crashing in
Woah-oh-oh-oh, oh, oh-oh, oh
But all the possibilities
No limits, just epiphanies.
Woah, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh-oh, oh
I'm never gonna look back, woah
I never gonna give it up, no
Just don't wake me now

I hear it calling outside my window
I feel it in my soul
The stars were burning so bright, the sun was out 'til midnight
I say we lose control

Welcome and Call to Worship Grace Lindvall

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

**Firm Foundation (He Won't)* A. Davis, C. Moore, C. Carnes³
(worship team and congregation)

*Prayer of Adoration

PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Eagle's Wings R. Morgan⁴
(worship team and congregation)

**Come live in me, All my life take over
Come breathe in me, And I will rise
On eagle's wings**

Assurance of Grace

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.

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

Simple Kingdom B. and K. Torwalt⁵
Your Kingdom is simple, as simple as love
You welcome the children, You stop for the one
We wanna see people the way Jesus does
Your Kingdom is simple, Lord, teach it to us
Your Kingdom is humble, as humble as death
This King is a Saviour who gave His last breath
So we may die daily, our pride laid to rest
Your Kingdom is humble, and the broken are blessed
Hallelujah, hallowed be Your name
May we live and breathe Your praise

And hallelujah, let all creation sing
Oh, the King of Heaven reigns
Your Kingdom is coming, Your Kingdom is here
Alive in our waiting, our work and our tears
So come to us quickly, forever our prayer
Your Kingdom is coming, Lord Jesus, come near
Your Kingdom is backwards, it flows in reverse
What You call a treasure this world calls a curse
The small become great and the last become first
Your Kingdom is backwards, Lord, teach us to serve
As it is with Your Kingdom (come on), let it be with Your church

ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

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*

*Song of Response

The Blessing S. Furtick, C. Brown, K. Jobe, C. Carnes⁶
(worship team and congregation)

*Blessing of the Backpacks

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Invitation and Benediction

*Benediction Response

**For I Know* R. Muchow⁷

Notes:

⁶You are invited to rise in body or spirit

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister

Grace Lindvall, associate minister, education

Courtney Shudak, pastoral resident, mission and outreach

Mary Kate Sykes, pastoral resident, education

Jessica Borgnis, director of contemporary music and worship arts

Ricko Hill, assistant director of contemporary worship and arts

Sharing the Gifts of Music

Jessica Borgnis (piano and vocals), Paul Fisher (drums), La Vita

Hill (vocals), Cheryl Hoover (bass guitar and vocals), Hope Kluttz

(vocals), Zach Leitner (electric guitar), Phil Lyew (saxophone), Ginny

Magrath (vocals), Bill Saunders (mandolin and vocals), Shea Watts

(acoustic guitar and vocals).

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 Fadiel 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. 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 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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