



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Ordination to the Ministry
of Word and Sacrament

Sunday, September 20, 2026
4:00 p.m.

SANCTUARY
COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 ORDINATION TO THE
MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

September 20, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Welcome to Covenant; we are glad you are here. Infant soothing rooms 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

The Highwomen B. Carlile, A. Shires, J. Webb¹

You Know the Way. K. Bluett, P. Zach, E. Wilkins²

Welcome Shea Watts

Call to Worship Aisha Dew

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

*Song of Praise 69

Here I Am, Lord. HERE I AM

*Prayer of Adoration Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty

PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

Call to ConfessionMatt Conner

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Grace. Nicole Thompson

*Congregational Response 587

Alleluia! CELTIC ALLELUIA³

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Passing of the PeaceJesca Yiskah-El

ENCOUNTER GOD’S WORD

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 6:1-8Jordan Goodwin Aldrige

Acts 9:1-6, 15Casey Aldrige

Meditation.Grace Lindvall

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

*Hymn of Response 726

Will You Come and Follow Me KELVINGROVE

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts Andy Wertz

Offering Music

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus W.J. Reynolds⁴
I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back.
The world behind me, the cross before me; no turning back.
Though none go with me, still I will follow; no turning back.
~Children's Choir~

Be Thou My Vision. E.H. Hull, M.E. Byrne⁵
Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light
Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one
Be Thou my shield and my sword for the fight
Be Thou my dignity, be Thou my might
Thou my soul's shelter and Thou my high tow'r
Raise Thou me heav'nward, O pow'r of my pow'r
Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only, be first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art
High King of heaven, when vict'ry is won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

SERVICE OF ORDINATION

Statement of Ordination Serenitye Taylor
Constitutional Questions for the Ordinand
Prayer of Ordination (laying on of hands) Serenitye Taylor
Declaration of Ordination Nikki Zimmermann
Charge to the Newly Ordained
Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry
Charge to the Congregation Katherine Kerr

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table Mary Kate Sykes
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer
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..... Courtney Shudak

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. All bread is gluten-free.

Music at Communion

Goodness of God . . . J. Johnson, B. Johnson, E. Cash, B. Fielding, J. Ingram⁶
I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God
I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night, You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God
All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Sending Song 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout .. STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

*BenedictionCourtney Shudak

*Benediction Response

**For I Know R. Muchow⁷*

All are invited to a reception in the Welcome Center following the service.

⁶You are invited to rise in body or spirit

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Afternoon

Shea Watts, minister at-large, Presbytery of Charlotte
Aisha Dew, ruling elder, CN Jenkins Presbyterian Church
Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, The J. Roy Davis Family Chair of
Theology & History, Union Presbyterian Seminary
Matt Conner, minister, Newell Presbyterian Church
Nicole Thompson, ruling elder, The Grove Presbyterian Church
Jesca Yiskah-El, ruling elder, Caldwell Presbyterian Church
Jordan Goodwin Aldrige, minister at-large, Presbytery of
Charlotte
Casey Aldrige, associate minister, First Presbyterian Church
Concord
Grace Lindvall, associate minister for education, Covenant
Presbyterian Church
Andy Wertz, ruling elder, Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church
(director of middle school youth ministries at Covenant
Presbyterian Church)
Serenitye Taylor, associate minister for congregational life,
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Nikki Zimmermann, transitional minister, Avondale Presbyterian
Church
Katherine Kerr, senior associate minister for congregational care,
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Mary Kate Sykes, pastoral resident for education, Covenant
Presbyterian Church

Those Asking Constitutional Questions

Sandra Boozer, ruling elder, Covenant Presbyterian Church
(Courtney's liaison); Dr. Christian Sanchez, Assistant Professor
of New Testament, Union Presbyterian Seminary (Courtney's
NT Bible professor); Grady Moseley, teaching elder, retired;
Vickie Johnson; Ann Ayers, ruling elder, Covenant Presbyterian
Church; Vivian Wilson; Kelli McAlister, ruling elder, Covenant
Presbyterian Church; Kim Spivey, ruling elder, Covenant
Presbyterian Church (mentor to pastoral residents); Reagan
Edwards.

Sharing the Gifts of Music

Jessica Borgnis (piano & vocals), Cameryn Bost (children's choir
director), Amber Brown (vocals), Katie Cornwell (carillonneur),
Jackson Daisley (electric guitar), Jordan Hardee (drums), Cheryl
Hoover (vocals), Mollie James (vocals), Mark Johanson (organ),
Phil Koonce (acoustic guitar, electric guitar), Cassie Morrow
(Courtney's sister-in-law, violin), Brett Shudak (Courtney's
husband, bass guitar), Henry Trexler (bass guitar)

Offering

This offering will benefit the Seminary Scholarship
Fund of the PC(USA). If you would like to
support this special giving opportunity, you can do
so by scanning the QR code and selecting
"General Giving..." and add "Seminary Scholarship
Fund" in the notes section.



Cover Art

Ron Boozer, Covenant member, painted this original watercolor
based on Courtney's description of Covenant's mission and
outreach pillars (housing, education, hunger, and care for the
vulnerable) as the work of the Church which flows out of worship,
beyond the sanctuary walls, and into the world.

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the ministry of
Courtney Shudak.

WELCOME TO COVENANT

We are happy that you are worshiping with us today. Assistive listening devices are available from the ushers. Audio-induction hearing loops are installed in the sanctuary for use with hearing aids.



A MESSAGE FROM COURTNEY

There is a myth about services like this one: that the day belongs to the ordinand. I want to set the record straight: it doesn't. This service belongs to God, and to the strange, ordinary way the Spirit keeps choosing unlikely people to carry the ministry of Jesus into the world. Hope, it turns out, is not a feeling. It's a duty.

None of us would be here without you, far too many to name! Some of you sit on the commissioning committee today. Others: Brett, family, friends, my Texas people, my seminary crew have been ministering to me for years, long before any commission made it official. You have been shaping me quietly, patiently, the whole time.

One special person who shaped me isn't here today, and I won't let that pass without a word. Bob Henderson has been a steady hand in my journey: first as a pastor, walking beside me while I was still too afraid to say "call" out loud, and later as head of staff, coaching me through the disorienting first year of a drastically different second career.

And to Covenant: Your commitment as a teaching church is simply mission by another name — turned inward, toward the Church itself, so that the laborers in the field might multiply. Your faithful presence has made room for me to listen for God's voice in the middle of a daunting decision and has given me space to develop as a minister. I would not have had the courage without you. This first call is bearable because we carry it together.

All glory to God!

Courtney

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