

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Afternoon

Rev. Serenitye Taylor, Associate Minister, Covenant Presbyterian Church
Rev. Casey Aldridge, Associate Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Concord
Rev. Nikki Zimmermann, Transitional Pastor, Avondale Presbyterian Church
Rev. Daniel Heath, Associate Chaplain and Director of Descendant Community Outreach, Davidson College
Rev. Lia Franks Benton, Minister, Meadowlake Church
Rev. Katie Kinnison, Senior Minister, Hilliard Presbyterian Church, Hilliard, OH
Rev. Bob Henderson, Senior Minister, Covenant Presbyterian Church
Rev. Grace Lindvall, Associate Minister, Covenant Presbyterian Church
Rev. Lisa McLennan, Minister, Union Presbyterian Seminary
Rev. Mary Kate Sykes, Pastoral Resident - Education, Covenant Presbyterian Church
Rev. Katherine Kerr, Senior Associate Minister, Covenant Presbyterian Church
Jesca Yiskah-El, Ruling Elder, Caldwell Presbyterian Church
Erin Mills, Ruling Elder, Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church
LaDonna Harrison, Ruling Elder, Smallwood Presbyterian Church
Ann Ayers, Ruling Elder, Covenant Presbyterian Church
Sandra Boozer, Ruling Elder, Covenant Presbyterian Church
Kelli McAlister, Ruling Elder, Covenant Presbyterian Church
Alan Morrow, Ruling Elder, Covenant Presbyterian Church
Ryan Atkinson, Ruling Elder, Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church

Sharing the Gifts of Music

Brandon Grove (drums), LaVita Hill (vocals), Ricko Hill (vocals), Phil Howe (keys), Phil Lyew (saxophone), Ginny Magrath (vocals), Matthews Ntlele (acoustic guitar, vocals), Gordon Weatherford (bass), Christian Watts (guitar).

Offering

This offering will benefit the Clergy Emergency Fund of the Presbytery of Charlotte. This fund has covered unexpected medical, home, and other expenses not covered by other sources. These grants are given confidentially to those in need. Please give generously. If you would like to support this special giving opportunity, you can do so by scanning the QR code and selecting "Giving for Clergy Emergencies and Crisis".



Cover Art

The image of Covenant's sanctuary on the front of the bulletin was drawn by artist Ron Boozer.

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 SHEA

I am grateful for your presence here today. So many of you have been instrumental in the days, months, and years leading up to this occasion. To Kathryn: you have stood with me for over a decade as I navigated the circuitous route leading here. I love you. A special thanks to the band today, which, in addition to my dear friends from Covenant, features my little brother and two of my old bandmates who have been a part of my long and winding road here. To Katie, thank you for your unwavering support and encouragement. My heart is filled with gratitude as I think of you. Thanks also to Covenant Presbyterian Church for giving me a church home, taking me under care, and hosting today's ordination service. Your generosity has shown me what church family is all about. To my mentor team: Words cannot express how much your presence has meant in my life. I would not be here without you. Please receive my love and deep appreciation. Finally, thank you to Union Presbyterian Seminary for allowing me to complete my MDiv and calling me to be a chaplain for the institution. I look forward to growing into this role in the next season of ministry.

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SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Ordination to the Ministry
of Word and Sacrament

Sunday, March 8, 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

March 8, 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 balcony and parlor. See an usher for assistance.

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Meditation C. Wong¹

Welcome Serenitye Taylor

Call to Worship Casey Aldridge

Leader: Beloveds, the Holy One gathers us together with purpose:

All: To dream of futures yet imagined.

Leader: To bolster our courage before powers and principalities.

All: To nurture our love for one another and the world.

Leader: God's blessing is upon us as we come to wrestle:

All: with meaning and justice,

Leader: with questions of love,

All: with the calling upon our lives.

Leader: The Spirit is moving! Let us worship together.

*Song of Praise

JOY C. Moore, D. Bashta, J. Jay et al.²

*Prayer of Adoration Nikki Zimmermann

Call to Confession Daniel Heath

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Leader: God of the mighty prophets, humble teachers, and gentle companions, You equip each of us to join in the lineage of the saints, to support the labors of collective liberation, but we confess, we struggle to take our place.

All: We deny our own power or overestimate it.

We accept the way things are and the systems we inherit.

We commit to institutions over people.

We confess that though we pray for your kin-dom to come, our lives do more to hinder than heed it's coming.

Leader: Pour out your grace among us, and build us up in community. Tend the wounds that keep us from our sacred potential and deliver us from temptation to find our safety and security in any power but yours.

All: May your Spirit embolden us, as disciples of love, each willing and ready to risk with and for each other and the flourishing of all the earth. Amen.

Assurance of Grace. Lia Franks Benton

*Passing of the Peace Jesca Yiskah-El

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Scripture Readings Erin Mills & Katie Kinnison

1 Kings 19: 9-18 p. 311

Mark 1: 9-14 p. 33

SermonKatie Kinnison

ORDINATION

Statement of OrdinationLaDonna Harrison

Constitutional Questions for the OrdinandBob Henderson

Prayer of Ordination (laying on of hands)Grace Lindvall

Declaration of OrdinationBob Henderson

Charge to the Newly OrdainedGrace Lindvall

Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry Lisa McLennan & Mary Kate Sykes

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's TableKatherine Kerr

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Holy One be with you;

All: And also with you.

Leader: Open your hearts;

All: We open them to God

Leader: Let us give thanks to God, in whose image we are made.

All: To the creator of all, we give thanks and praise

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 InstitutionR. Shea Watts

Leader: Let us proclaim together the mystery of faith:

All: Christ was birthed among us.

Christ was executed among us.

Christ rises again among us.

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 vegan and gluten-free.

Music at Communion

What A Beautiful NameB. Fielding, B. Ligertwood³

You were the Word at the beginning

One with God the Lord Most High

Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in you our Christ

What a beautiful name it is, what a beautiful name it is

The name of Jesus Christ my king

What a beautiful name it is, nothing compares to this

What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us

So Jesus, you brought heaven down

My sin was great, your love was greater

What could separate us now

What a wonderful name it is, what a wonderful name it is

The name of Jesus Christ my king

What a wonderful name it is, nothing compares to this

What a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus

Death could not hold you, the veil tore before you

You silenced the boast, of sin and grave

The heavens are roaring the praise of your glory

For you are raised to life again

You have no rival, you have no equal

Now and forever, God you reign

Yours is the kingdom, yours is the glory

Yours is the name, above all names

What a powerful name it is, what a powerful name it is

The name of Jesus Christ my king

What a powerful name it is, nothing can stand against

What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus

Prayer After CommunionRyan Atkinson

SENDING

*BenedictionR. Shea Watts

*Sending Song

Lean On My Love J. Batiste & N. Hemby⁴

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

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit