



COVENANT

presbyterian church

To the Greater Glory of God

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, March 8, 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

Sunday, March 8, 2026

11:00 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

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in G Minor J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Bob Henderson

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 826

Lift High the Cross CRUCIFER

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

CHORAL CALL TO CONFESSION

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God South African, arr. W. Sigobi¹
Come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God;
for Jesus will never say no.

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 (*choir and congregation*)

God's Mercies Are New Every Day G. Murphy
Choir: Continuous love that will never fail
All: God's mercies are new ev'ry day.
Choir: With God in my life sin cannot prevail
All: God's mercies are new ev'ry day.
ALL (REFRAIN):
God is faithful, Like the morning sunrise;
God is faithful, God's mercies are new ev'ry day.
God's mercies are new ev'ry day. God's mercies are new ev'ry day.

*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.

ANTHEM

When Jesus Wept P. Olejar²

When Jesus wept, the falling tear
in mercy flowed beyond all bound;
when Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized
all the guilty world around.

~ *Covenant Choir* ~

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.*

RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 796

We Come to You for Healing, Lord LAND OF REST

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CONCERNS

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

The Day is Coming M. Miller³

The day is coming, the Lord will move
with the hand of justice and the heart of love.
The will of heaven on this earth by done,
the day is coming, O let it come.
With willing spirits, Lord let us dare to kneel
with strangers and join in prayer.
Grant in your mercy, hope that heals,
the law of love your word reveals.
A barren wasteland we must reclaim,
with hearts for bearing each other’s pain.

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

Give us the courage to make a place
to plant tomorrow's seeds of peace.
The day is coming, the Lord will move,
with the hand of justice and the heart of love.
The will of heaven on this earth be done,
the day is coming, oh, let it come. Oh, let it come.
~ Youth Singers ~

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***RECESSIONAL HYMN 846**

Fight the Good Fight DUKE STREET

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Danish Amen Anon. Danish

***POSTLUDE**

Recessional on "Duke Street"R. Hobby

Notes:

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister
Katherine Kerr, senior associate minister, congregational care
Emily Floyd, director of traditional music
Mark Glaeser, organist
Peter Moore, music intern
Covenant Choir
Lorna Graves, carillon

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Given with trust in God in honor of bereaved families and in loving memory of all the children who rest eternally with God.

WELCOME TO COVENANT

We are happy that you are worshipping 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.

Masks are optional in the sanctuary and 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 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 Fadial

Jim Leathers

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](https://CovenantPresby.org), 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