



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morning Worship Service

— ♦ —
October 4, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Communion Sunday

The Ascension of Christ

Luke 24:44-53

U.S. Army Chaplain Nate Bacerra



MORNING WORSHIP

11:00 AM

WELCOME

PRELUDE – Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee – Mr. Logan Brasher



CALL TO WORSHIP – Dr. Scott Buchanan

Jeremiah 10:6-7

Reader: There is none like You, O Lord; You are great, and Your name is great in might. Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your due;

People: for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like You.



INVOCATION & 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.



HYMN OF PRAISE – O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing – #164



CONFESSION OF FAITH – Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 106. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

A. In the sixth petition, which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Genesis 28:1-9 – pew Bible, p. 22



PSALM OF PRAISE – Psalm 23: The Lord's My Shepherd – #87

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Hebrews 12:1-13 – pew Bible, p. 1008



Please stand if you are able.

CONFESSION OF SIN – The Ten Commandments

Reader: You shall have no other gods before me.

People: Father, we confess that we have made ourselves, and the things of this world, more important than you.

Reader: You shall not make for yourself a graven image.

People: Father, we confess that we have often tried to conceive of you in our own image, after our own thoughts and desires.

Reader: You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

People: Father, we confess that we have not cherished your name, as we should.

Reader: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

People: Father, we confess that we have not found rest in Christ, on the Lord's day, as we ought.

Reader: Honor your father and your mother.

People: Father, we confess that we have resented the authority you have given over us.

Reader: You shall not murder.

People: Father, we confess that we have entertained violent thoughts.

Reader: You shall not commit adultery.

People: Father, we confess that we have harbored lustful thoughts.

Reader: You shall not steal.

People: Father, we confess that we have nurtured greedy thoughts.

Reader: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

People: Father, we confess that we are prone to lie, and deceive other people.

Reader: You shall not covet.

People: Father, we confess that we are often discontented with our lives, and crave that which does not belong to us.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON – Romans 8:31-34

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.



GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER – Dr. Buchanan

OFFERTORY / HYMN OF PRAISE – Christ Our Hope in Life and Death – In Bulletin



DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

The Ascension of Christ
Luke 24:44-53
U.S. Army Chaplain Nate Bacerra



HYMN OF RESPONSE – Rock of Ages – #500

LORD'S SUPPER INSTRUCTION AND EXHORTATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER



BENEDICTION



NUNC DIMITTIS –Christ, We Do All Adore Thee

Christ, we do all adore thee; and we do praise thee forever. Christ, we do all adore thee; and we do praise thee forever. For on the holy cross hast thou the world from sin redeemed. Christ, we do all adore thee; and we do praise thee forever. Christ, we do all adore thee.

POSTLUDE – On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Getty, Kauflin, Papa, Boswell, & Merker



1. What is our hope in life and death? Christ a-lone, Christ a-lone.
2. *What truth can calm the trou-bled soul? God is good, God is good.*
3. Un - to the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, he lives! Christ, he lives!"



What is our on - ly con - fi - dence? That our souls to him be - long.
Where is his grace and good - ness known? In our great Re-deem - er's blood.
And what re - ward will heav - en bring? Ev - er - last - ing life with him.



Who holds our days with - in his hand? What comes a - part from his com-mand?
Who hold our faith when fears a - rise? Who stands a - bove the storm - y trial?
There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be de - stroyed,



And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand. —
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh un - to the shore, the Rock of Christ?
and we will feast in end - less joy when Christ is ours for - ev - er - more. —



O sing hal - le - lu - jah! Our hope springs e - ter - nal; O — sing hal - le -



lu - jah! Now and ev - er we con-fess Christ our hope in life and death.

SERMON NOTES

The Ascension of Christ

Luke 24:44-53

U.S. Army Chaplain Nate Bacerra

October 4, 2026

INFORMATION ON THE LORD'S TABLE



Welcome! This morning, we are observing the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Covenant is for all those who have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, do now repent, endeavor to live a holy life, and have publicly professed their faith through membership in an evangelical church.

Children who have not publicly confessed Christ by being received by the Session into communicant church membership should refrain from the Sacrament and learn by reverent observation; this, even though they may already have received Christ privately. Those without personal saving faith in Jesus Christ are to refrain from the Sacrament and are urged now to receive Him by repentance and faith.

It is our custom at Covenant to use wine in the observance of the Lord's Supper. The purple cups in the center are grape juice and the clear cups along the outside are wine. If there are no purple cups of grape juice remaining on the tray when you are served, please let the elders know so they may provide one for you. All of our bread is gluten-free.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

9/3/2026

I have some exciting news for you this week. As many of you know, a number of men have been going through Officer Training since the beginning of the year. Three of those men have been put forward, and we are officially presenting them to you now.

The class consisted of writings and lectures by Terry Johnson, (pastor of IPC Savannah, who has been teaching the Westminster Confession for Officer Training for decades), as well as studies in the Book of Church Order. We have studied the doctrines of our faith and the ministry issues common to the church that grew out of those discussions. The candidates took a written exam, and were interviewed by the session as part of the process of being recommended to the church. I also want to say that these three men worked hard and stuck with the training to the very end, for which we are very grateful.

The three men are Ben Clark, Cullen Wallace, and Kyle Mbiad. The Session is recommending Cullen and Ben for the office of ruling elder. Kyle, who is already an ordained deacon, is being recommended for the office of deacon here at Covenant. Please see a brief word about each one below.

The PCA Book of Church Order 24-1 requires the Session to report the eligible candidates to the congregation and to give at least thirty days' notice of the time and place of the congregational meeting for the election. Therefore, we are presenting these men to you now, and we plan to hold our officer elections on October 11, 2026.

Ben and Caryl Clark have been active at Covenant since 2016, when they were newlyweds. Ben grew up in nondenominational evangelical churches where his father was a pastor. While in graduate school, he was a member of a PCA church in Washington, D.C. In 2015, he moved to Milledgeville and began attending Covenant. In 2016, he married Caryl, and they attended together, becoming members in 2017. Ben is a professor at GCSU. Today they attend Covenant with their four children, all baptized in the church: Emma (9), John (6), Nora (4), and Miriam (2).

Cullen and Kaley Wallace have attended Covenant since moving (back) to Milledgeville in 2020. Both originally from the Augusta area, Cullen attended GCSU, and Kaley attended GMC. In 2015, they graduated, married, and moved to Tallahassee, Fla., where they lived for five years. They both grew up in Baptist churches, professed faith as children, and attended a Reformed Southern Baptist church in Tallahassee. Cullen teaches at GCSU and is the faculty advisor for Campus Outreach. They have a daughter, Elliott (5), and son, Chip (4), who were both baptized recently.

Kyle and Ruth Mbiad have been at Covenant since 2023. Kyle has attended PCA churches since 2009 and has many years of experience serving as a deacon. He served at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Brunswick from 2012 to 2016 and later served at Grace Church in Canton until 2024. Kyle is retired after more than twenty years of service in the U.S. Army as a recruiter. Kyle and Ruth have three grown children, with their son Isaac still living at home. We are grateful for Kyle's willingness to use his experience in service to the congregation here at Covenant.

Please prayerfully bring these men before the Lord, and feel free to find time to speak with them. As we move forward as a church, may God raise up men of God as we trust in Him.

In Christ,
Pastor Bryan

440 North Columbia Street
Milledgeville, Georgia 31061
478.453.9628

