

*HYMN No. 839.....ASSURANCE
Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!
*CHARGE AND BLESSING
*CHORAL RESPONSE.....Danish
Amen

POSTLUDE.....J.S. Bach
In dir ist Freude
(Please be seated for the Postlude or exit the sanctuary quietly while the Postlude is being played.)

**Those who are able, please stand.*

LITURGIST: Jane Wimmer

Today we install Katie Campbell, Frances Craig, Christy Davis, Kent Diduch, Troy Kurtz, Linda Owen, and John Sayers as ruling elders in the Class of 2028 and Kristen Lambert as a ruling elder in the Class of 2026. All these elders have been previously ordained.

The liturgy for today's service is gleaned from the worship services written by our elders-elect as part of their elder training course.

*Children are always welcome in the Sanctuary during worship.
Children's worship folders are available in the Narthex.
Should you find that your child grows restless, there is childcare available in the nursery for ages 3 and under.*

Welcome!

Whether you are a long-time member, occasional worshiper, or new visitor with us, we hope that in this service you will encounter the living Christ and be strengthened by God's promises for you. Please visit our website at covenantpresstaunton.org to learn more about our ministries and Covenant life together. We are happy to have you as part of our church family today!

COVENANT CHURCH DIRECTORY

PASTOR..... John C. Peterson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR..... Rachel Watson
MINISTER OF MUSIC..... Jeffrey Ryman
ORGANIST..... Christopher Wszalek
HANDBELL DIRECTOR..... Alan Cameron
DEVELOPMENTAL PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR..... Mitzi White
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT..... Martha Pierce
FINANCIAL SECRETARY..... Debby Bibens
TREASURER..... Paul Sorrell
COVENANT NURSE..... Kathy Henderson
CUSTODIAN..... Cleo Holly



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STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138



Covenant Presbyterian Church

Striving to be Faithful Disciples of Christ:
Worshipping with Joy, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

JANUARY 11, 2026

10:30 AM

*As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship, please silence any mobile devices.
This service is live streamed on YouTube.*

STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

PRELUDE.....Callahan
Fanfare on 'McKee'

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....NUM DANKET ALL
This is the Day the Lord Hath Made
WORSHIPPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 95)

Leader: Come, sing to the Lord!

People: Make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: Come into God's presence with thanksgiving!

People: Make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

*HYMN No. 23.....PLEADING SAVIOR
God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great and Gracious God, you call us by name and claim us as your own. We confess that we resist your call. We are not the servant people you call us to be. We forget your promises and take for granted our blessings. We claim to love our neighbors, but our lives tell a different story. We offer too little compassion, live with too little humility, and are distracted by unimportant things. We are afraid to take risks, even when we feel your Spirit nudging us to action. Forgive us, Lord. Turn our hearts back to you, and help us to walk in the Way of Jesus. In your mercy, hear our prayer. . . (silent confession) . . . Amen

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – Hymn No. 2143

*O Lord, your tenderness, melting all my bitterness;
O Lord, I receive your love.
O Lord, your loveliness, changing my unworthiness;
O Lord, I receive your love.
O Lord, I receive your love; O Lord, I receive your love.*

GROWING IN FAITH

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Hymn No. 288

*Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.*

FIRST READING..... Pg. 820 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible*
Isaiah 42:1-9

SECOND READING.....Pg. 3 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*
Matthew 3:13-17

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMONJOHN PETERSON

“THE PRESENT TENSE OF GOD”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (A Brief Statement of Faith “Spirit”)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves
and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,

claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls all people to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

*HYMN No. 318.....ST. PETER
In Christ There Is No East or West

SERVING IN LOVE

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

Statement of Office
Questions of Elders-Elect
Questions of Congregation
Prayer and Laying On of Hands
Charge to Elders

HYMN No. 69.....Schutte
Here I Am, Lord

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us
not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....Schwoebel
For Those Who Shepherd Us

PRAYER

(Order of Worship Continues on back page)

HYMN No. 23

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

*God, you spin the whirling planets,
fill the seas and spread the plain,
mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.*

*We, created in your image,
would a true reflection be
of your justice, grace, and mercy
and the truth that makes us free.*

*You have called us to be faithful
in our life and ministry.*

*We respond in grateful worship
joined in one community.
When we blur your gracious image,
focus us and make us whole.*

*Healed and strengthened as your people,
we move onward toward your goal.*

*God, your word is still creating,
calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion.
Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in your image,
we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.*

HYMN No. 108

In Christ There Is No East or West

*In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west;
in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.*

HYMN No. 69

Here I Am, Lord

*I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

REFRAIN:

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

*I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?
REFRAIN*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
REFRAIN*

HYMN No. 839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

REFRAIN:

*This is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

REFRAIN

*Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
REFRAIN*