

## 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](http://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

#### Class of 2026

Tom Bellamy  
Tom Brooks  
Melissa Druff  
Jacki Dull  
Donna Hamric  
Sam Hostetter  
Kristen Lambert

#### Class of 2027

Sally Griffith  
Clay Robinson  
Bob Stripling  
Janet Surratt  
Linda Tenney  
Dori Walk  
Jane Wimmer

#### Class of 2028

Katie Campbell  
Frances Craig  
Christy Davis  
Kent Diduch  
Troy Kurtz  
Linda Owen  
John Sayers



JANUARY 25, 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

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

#### INTROIT

### WORSHIPING WITH JOY

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 27)

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation!

People: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives!

Leader: Be strong and let your hearts take courage!

People: We shall not fear, for the Lord our God is with us!

\*HYMN No. 616..... LOBE DEN HERREN  
Awesome God



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## \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, we confess that we fall short of your hopes and dreams for us. You call us to follow, but we do not listen and go our wayward ways. You call us to repent, but selfish pride keeps us from admitting our sins and changing our ways. You call us to fish for people, but we are more apt to fish for compliments. You call us to share your good news, but our tongues fall silent when we should speak. Merciful God, forgive us. Inspire us to hear your call, to respond faithfully, to share you good news joyfully, and to follow wherever you lead us. Lord, 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

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING.....Pg. 618 of the Old Testament, Pew Bible  
Psalm 25:4-5

SECOND READING.....Pg. 4 of the New Testament, Pew Bible  
Matthew 4:12-25  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON.....JOHN PETERSON  
“MINISTRY 101”

### MUSICAL REFLECTION

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (A Brief Statement of Faith “Jesus”)

**We trust in Jesus Christ,**

**fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:**

**preaching good news to the poor**

**and release to the captives,**

**teaching by word and deed**

**and blessing the children,**

**healing the sick**

**and binding up the brokenhearted,**

**eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,**

**and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,**

**Jesus was crucified,**

**suffering the depths of human pain**

**and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead,**

**vindicating his sinless life,**

**breaking the power of sin and evil,**

**delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**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. 726.....KELVINGROVE  
The Summons

## SERVING IN LOVE

### 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**

\*HYMN No. 729.....African American Spiritual  
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

## \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

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HYMN No. 616

Awesome God

**Our God is an awesome God  
who reigns from heaven above  
with wisdom, power, and love;  
our God is an awesome God!**

HYMN No. 726

The Summons

**“Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown;  
will you let my name be known;  
will you let my life be grown in you  
and you in me?”**

**“Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you  
and you in me?”**

**“Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you  
and you in me?”**

**“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch  
and sound in you and you in me?”**

**Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go where your love  
and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.**

HYMN No. 729

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

**Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving  
in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more loving  
in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving  
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more holy  
in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more holy  
in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy  
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
in my heart.**