

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE.....African-American Spiritual

Go! Tell It on the Mountain

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

***Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.***

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

POSTLUDE.....Elderkin

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

*(Please be seated for the Postlude or exit the sanctuary quietly
while the Postlude is being played.)*

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*Bringing forward the communion elements this morning are
Rebecca Bussey and Faith Whitacre.*

*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.*

(Hymns and streaming used by permission One License A-715880)

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 4, 2026

10:30 AM

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

*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.....Shackley

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the beginning,

People: God brought forth light with a word.

Leader: In the beginning,

People: The Word was with God and the Word was God.

Leader: At Christmas, a new beginning,

People: The true light was coming to the world.

Leader: The light shines in the darkness.

People: And the darkness has not overcome it.

*HYMN No. 132.....IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light and life, you came into this world to be with us. Yet, we confess, we do not recognize you. You stand among the wounded, the poor, and the forgotten, but we do not see you. You command us to love, forgive, and tend to one another, but we do not accept your way of grace and mercy. Forgive us, Lord. Soften our hearts and open our eyes to see you and welcome your way each and every day. Lord, hear our prayer. . . (silent confession) . . . Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – Hymn No. 121, Stanza 4

***O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!***

GROWING IN FAITH

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING..... Pg. 624 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible*
Psalm 33:1, 4-9, 20-22

SECOND READING.....Pg. 111 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*
John 1:1-14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON.....RACHEL WATSON
“IN THE BEGINNING”

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*From the Confession of 1967*)

In Jesus Christ God was reconciling the world to God's self.

Jesus Christ is God with us.

He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation.

He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission.

This work of God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world.

Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations! Amen.

*HYMN No. 108.....DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's Love Begotten

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.

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

PRAYER

HYMN No. 150 (Stanzas 1 & 4).....DIX

As With Gladness Men of Old

***As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.***

***Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.***

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (The Sanctus is Hymn No. 559)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(We will partake of the Communion elements together after all are served.)

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 141.....PERSONENT HODIE

On This Day, Earth Shall Ring

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

(Order of Worship continues on back page)

HYMN No. 132
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!*

HYMN No. 108
Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega;
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!*

*By his Word was all created;
he commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft shining,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore!*

*O, that birth forever blessed
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!*

*This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected.
Let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!*

*O ye heights of heaven, adore him.
Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent;
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!*

*Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore! Amen.*

HYMN No. 141
On This Day, Earth Shall Ring

*On this day earth shall ring
with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King,
born on earth to save us;
him the Father gave us.
Ideo, ideo, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*His the doom, ours the mirth;
when he came down to earth
Bethlehem saw his birth;
ox and ass beside him
from the cold would hide him.
Ideo, ideo, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*God's bright star, o'er his head,
wise men three to him led;
kneel they low by his bed,
lay their gifts before him,
praise him and adore him.
Ideo, ideo, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*On this day angels sing;
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us;
peace and love he gave us.
Ideo, ideo, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*