

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!

The flowers are given today by John and Joan Sayers in memory of and in honor of past and present Sunday School teachers.

COVENANT CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Eileen Cooper	Cindy Bowman	Tom Bellamy
Chris Earhart	Brandon Cline-Taskey	Tom Brooks
Kristen Lambert	Mandy Drumheller	Melissa Druff
Sue Morley	Linda Foster	Jacki Dull
Roderic Owen	Joan Sayers	Donna Hamric
Sarah Splaun	Randy Smith	Sam Hostetter
Dan Summers- Minette	Seth Ward	David Stahl



*Covenant
 Presbyterian
 Church*

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

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

10:30 AM

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

STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

PRELUDE.....Zabel

How Great Thou Art

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....LAUDATE DOMINUM

Give Praise to the Lord

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 149)

Leader: Come, children of God, rejoice in your Maker!

People: Sing songs and hymns, celebrate with voices and instruments, with praise and prayers!

Leader: For God is here, among us and within us, bringing new life to all who believe

People: Let us praise God together!

*HYMN No. 625.....HOW GREAT THOU ART

O Lord My God



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*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we are too easily caught up in a competition for power. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor. We are silent in the face of injustice. We take more than our fair share and turn from our neighbors in need. We confess that we resist your call on our lives and abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, turning them into bonds of oppression. Heal and forgive us, Lord. Set us free to be transformed by your love and grace that we might live with wonder, with humility, and with love. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — Hymn No. 2176

**Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.**

ANTHEM.....Covenant Ringers

Exuberant Joy - Arnold Sherman

GROWING IN FAITH

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE — Those who prefer their child(ren) not be on camera are welcome to have their child(ren) continue sitting with them during this time. *(Following the Children’s Message, children ages 3-1st grade are invited to exit the sanctuary for Covenant Kids.)*

COMMISSION OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION LEADERS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING.....Pg. 726 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible Proverbs 8:22-31*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 23 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible Matthew 18:1-5*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON.....RACHEL WATSON

“LIKE A CHILD”

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN No. 487.....PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

These Treasured Children

SERVING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER (...“sins”)

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....Schwoebel

Ascription of Praise

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 539.....Donaldson

We Will Go Out with Joy

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE.....SOON TI

May the Love of the Lord

POSTLUDE.....Burtonwood

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

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

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*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)

HYMN No. 625

O Lord My God

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:*

REFRAIN —

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

*When thru the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:*

REFRAIN

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in –
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:*

REFRAIN

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, “My God, how great Thou art!”*

REFRAIN

HYMN No. 487

These Treasured Children

*These treasured children present now
are bound to us by sacred vow:
with love, we make a heartfelt claim
to welcome them in Jesus’ name.*

*Our ancient story we shall tell,
till these our children know it well
within their souls and minds and hearts,
for this is where their journey starts.*

*We long to trust as children do
and so entrust our days to you;
in their young lives we clearly see
a lesson in humility.*

*Come, Holy Spirit, help us be
a nurturing community;
empower us to realize
God’s kingdom through our children’s eyes.*

*Then, tender God, each child embrace;
God give them blessings, grant them grace.
Surprise them, God, with wonders still,
and gently guide them to your will.*

HYMN No. 539

We Will Go Out with Joy

*We will go out with joy in the Spirit;
we will go out with God.
We will go out with joy in the Spirit;
we will go out with God.*

REFRAIN —

*Alleluia! We will go out with joy.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Now anyone who’s born of the Spirit,
sing a new song of joy.
Now anyone who’s born of the Spirit,
sing a new song of joy. REFRAIN*

*We will go out with joy in the Spirit;
we will go out with God.
We will go out with joy in the Spirit;
we will go out with God. REFRAIN*