

*CHORAL RESPONSE.....African-American Spiritual
Go! Tell It on the Mountain
POSTLUDE.....Daquin
Grand Jeu et Duo

(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)

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 today are given by Jim and Susan McClary in memory of Commander Richard C. "Mac" McClary, USN (ret.)

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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DECEMBER 22, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:30AM

*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.....Guilmant
Noel Ecossais

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

One: *O Come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace*

All: Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE — The Griffith Family

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 89)

Leader: Sing of God's steadfast love!

People: Proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations!

Leader: Let heaven and earth praise the Lord!

People: Blessed be the Lord our God forever and ever!

*HYMN No. 133.....ADESTE FIDELES
O Come, All Ye Faithful

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that incarnation is still a mystery to us. We bask in the glow of Christmas without fully grasping the meaning of your coming. We sing familiar carols without hearing their message. We repeat the familiar stories, but take for granted your coming among us — as if it was an ordinary thing, not a great mystery of faith. Forgive us. Come and stir our hearts, so that we may hear anew and embrace with wonder the good news of your coming as Emmanuel, God with us. 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 — 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.)*

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

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15

HYMN No. 140 — *Once in Royal David's City*

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18

*Hymn No. 143 — *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2a, 6-7

ANTHEM.....John Rutter
Jesus Child

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-38

ANTHEM.....John Rutter
There Is No Rose

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

Anthem.....Traditional, arr. Shaw
The Holly and the Ivy

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16

HYMN No. 142 — *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

SEVENTH LESSON: John 1:1-14

ANTHEM.....John Rutter
The Nativity Carol

*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. 119.....MENDELSSOHN
Hark! The Heralds Angels Sing

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

(Order of worship continued on back page)

HYMN No. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him,
born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!*

*True God from true God,
Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!*

HYMN No. 140

Once in Royal David's City

*Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless;
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.*

HYMN No. 143

Angels from the Realms of Glory

*Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

HYMN No. 142

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

*'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
Great Spirit, Lord of all the earth
sent angel choirs instead.
Before their light the stars grew dim
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus, your king, is born;
Jesus is born.
In excelsis gloria.*

*Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found.
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round.
But as the hunters brave drew nigh
the angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus, your king, is born;
Jesus is born.
In excelsis gloria.*

*The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on
the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus, your king, is born;
Jesus is born.
In excelsis gloria.*

*O children of the forest free,
the angel song is true:
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.
Jesus, your king, is born;
Jesus is born.
In excelsis gloria.*

HYMN No. 119

Hark! The Heralds Angels Sing

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*