

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..... Lou Dolive
 DEVELOPMENTAL PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR..... Mitzi White
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT..... Martha Pierce
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY..... Debby Bibens
 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

DECEMBER 29, 2024
 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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.....Martin

Ukrainian Bell Carol

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 148)

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: Praise the Lord from the heavens,
 praise God in the heights!**

Leader: All creatures, great and small, animals and birds, reptiles and fish,
 All people, every gender, every age, everyone, everywhere!

People: All creation, praise the Lord!

Leader: God's glory is above earth and heaven!

People: Let us praise the name of the Lord!

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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



2001 NORTH COALTER STREET
 STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you are full of compassion, kindness, humility, and patience. We confess that we are slow to imitate your ways. We are impatient with one another. We hold grudges and judge without knowing each other's stories. We turn away from the very ones you call us to love and refuse to bear the burdens of one another. Forgive us, Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit. Give us the courage and compassion to be reconciled to one another until all know your peace and grace. Lord, in your mercy, 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING.....Pg. 246 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible Colossians 3:12-17*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 72 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible Luke 2:41-52*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMONRACHEL WATSON

"MARY, DID YOU KNOW?"

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. 145.....GREENSLEEVES

What Child Is This?

SERVING IN LOVE

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

FOUR CENTS PER MEAL

HYMN No. 507 (Stanza 3).....Hamm

Come to the Table of Grace

***Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of love.***

THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 110.....BRING A TORCH

Love Has Come

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

Go! Tell It on the Mountain (Stanza 3)

***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!***

POSTLUDE.....Edstrom

Ding Dong Merrily on High

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

**Those who are able, please stand.*

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. 145

What Child Is This?

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

HYMN No. 110

Love Has Come

*Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.*

*Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*