

## 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*

The flowers today are given in memory of Clarice Allen  
by the Allen family.

### 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 8, 2024  
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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..... James  
*Voluntary in A Minor*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CAROL SING

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

One: *O Come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our Spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.*

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE — The Whitacre Family

### WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 72)

Leader: Blessed be the Lord our God!

**People: The Lord is does wondrous things!**

Leader: Blessed be God's glorious name forever!

**People: May God's glory fill the whole earth! Amen and Amen**

\*HYMN No. 104..... VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN  
*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*



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\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you give us so much for which to be thankful, hopeful, and joyful. We confess that we do not live with the gratitude, hope, and joy that we should. We take for granted your gifts and ask for more. We place our hopes in lesser things that disappoint us. We are too distracted by the bad news of the world to embrace the good news of your coming. Forgive us. Remind us of your sweet promises incarnate in your Son, and inspire us to live with more gratitude, hope, and joy all our days. 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 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!*

PASSING THE PEACE — Please sign and pass the Friendship Register

**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.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING.....Pg. 1088 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible Malachi 3:1-7*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 72 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible Luke 3:1-6*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON.....JOHN PETERSON

**“ADVENT QUESTIONS”**

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. 96.....WINCHESTER NEW

*On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*

**SERVING IN LOVE**

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

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM.....Butler

*People Look East*

PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 87.....GENEVAN 42

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE.....African-American Spiritual

*Go! Tell It on the Mountain*

POSTLUDE.....Balbastre

*A la Venue de Noel*

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

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

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*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.*

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

HYMN No. 104

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

*O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly  
all that may please you best.*

*Love caused your incarnation;  
love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation  
procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling,  
that led you to embrace  
in love, all loves excelling,  
our lost and fallen race.*

*You come, O Lord, with gladness,  
in mercy and goodwill,  
to bring an end to sadness  
and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation  
we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation  
your glory shall display.*

HYMN No. 96

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!*

*Then cleansed be every life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.*

*We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.*

*Stretch forth your hand; our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.*

HYMN No. 87

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

*"Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To my people now proclaim  
that my pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their sins I cover,  
and their warfare now is over."*

*For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
O, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Let the valleys rise in meeting  
and the hills bow down in greeting.*

*Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.*