

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 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Cindy Bowman	Tom Bellamy	Sally Griffith
Brandon Cline-Taskey	Tom Brooks	Clay Robinson
Mandy Drumheller	Melissa Druff	Bob Stripling
Linda Foster	Jacki Dull	Janet Surratt
Joan Sayers	Donna Hamric	Linda Tenney
Randy Smith	Sam Hostetter	Dori Walk
Seth Ward	David Stahl	Jane Wimmer



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

MARCH 23, 2025
 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM

*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..... J.S. Bach
Prelude and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 554

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT..... MORNING SONG
You Are My Refuge, Faithful God

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 63)

Leader: Our souls thirst for the Lord our God!

People: The Lord's steadfast love is better than life itself!

Leader: Bless the Lord as long as you live!

People: Call on God's name! Praise the Lord!

*HYMN No. 401..... GATHER US IN
Here in This Place



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 STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we come to you without excuses, without defenses, without alibis; we come with penitent hearts to say: forgive us, for we have sinned. Forgive us for our fickle faith, our misplaced trust, our disobedient actions, our disordered loves, our self-righteous judgments, and our unfruitful lives. Forgive us for being so much less than you created us to be. Cleanse our sin-stained hearts and renew our spirits, that we may return to you and be more faithful disciples and more fruitful people. Lord, hear our prayer. . . (silent confession) . . .

*KYRIE – Hymn No. 2275

*Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.
Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison.
Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.*

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – Hymn No. 215 (stanza 1 alt.)

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heavy cross for my soul.*

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. 838 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible Isaiah 55:6-9*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 92 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible Luke 13:1-9*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON**JOHN PETERSON**

“REPENT!”

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *Question 21 of the Heidelberg Catechism*

Q. What is true faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a

wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace granted solely by Christ’s merit. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

*HYMN No. 442.....WOODWORTH

Just as I Am, without One Plea

SERVING IN LOVE

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

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....Ryan Main

Dies Irae

Day of wrath! O Day of mourning!
See fulfilled the prophets’ warning,
Heaven and Earth in ashes burning.
Oh, what fear man’s bosom rendeth,
When from heaven the Judge descendeth,
On whose sentence all dependeth.

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 418.....Thompson

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

Were You There?

POSTLUDE.....Raney

Softly and Tenderly

(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. 401
Here in This Place

*Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

HYMN No. 442
Just as I Am, without One Plea

*Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

HYMN No. 418
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.*

*Refrain:
"Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"*

*Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? (Refrain)*

*O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. (Refrain)*