

\*CHORAL RESPONSE.....African-American Spiritual  
*Were You There?*

POSTLUDE.....Raney  
*Fairest Lord Jesus*  
*(Please be seated for the Postlude or exit the sanctuary quietly while the Postlude is being played.)*

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Bringing forward the communion elements this morning are  
Rebecca Bussey and Tilghman Gaffney.*

\*\*\*\*\*  
*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)*

### 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 have you as part of our church family today!*

The flowers today are given by Randy and Debbie Smith  
in memory of loved ones.

### 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



# Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

APRIL 6, 2025  
FIFTH 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.....Organ

*Earth and All Stars*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....ABBOT'S LEIGH

*God Is Here!*

### WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 126)

Leader: Laugh, sing, and shout for joy!

**People: For, the Lord has done great things for us!**

Leader: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!

**People: May the Lord bless us, one and all! Praise the Lord!**

\*HYMN No. 394.....Alternate Tune: Regent

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*



2001 NORTH COALTER STREET  
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Creator, all our days are gifts from you. Forgive us for taking them for granted. We are too often distracted by unholy things, by selfish things that keep us from appreciating the blessings of the day and making the most of our time. We ignore the needs of our neighbors and miss opportunities to serve them. We are quick to judge but slow to forgive. We lack imagination and faith. Merciful God, forgive us. Open our eyes, ears, and minds to the blessings of each day and the possibilities to bless you through our faithful lives. Lord, in your mercy, 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. 756 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a, 4, 7b*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 129 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible John 12:1-11*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON.....JOHN PETERSON**

**“FRAGRANT FAITH”**

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. 828.....Prentiss/Doane

*More Love to Thee, O Christ*  
**SERVING IN LOVE**

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

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....Pote

*God Is Our Refuge and Strength*

PRAYER

HYMN No. 517 (stanzas 1 & 2) .....MORECAMBE

*Here, O Our Lord, We See You*

***Here, O our Lord, we see you face to face.  
Here would we touch and handle things unseen,  
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,  
and all our weariness upon you lean.***

***Here would we feed upon the bread of God,  
here drink with you the royal cup of heaven;  
here would we lay aside each earthly load,  
and taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.***

**THE LORD’S SUPPER**

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(The Sanctus is Hymn No. 559)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(*We will partake of the Communion elements together after all are served.*)

PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 503.....O QUANTA QUALIA

*Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

(*order of worship continued on back page*)

HYMN No. 394

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

*Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious,  
binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion's help forever,  
and our confidence alone.*

*To this temple, where we call you,  
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;  
come, with all your loving-kindness;  
hear your people as we pray,  
and your fullest benediction  
shed within these walls today.*

*Here bestow on all your servants  
what they seek from you to gain;  
what they gain from you, forever  
with the blessed to retain;  
and hereafter in your glory  
evermore with you to reign.*

*Laud and honor to the Father,  
laud and honor to the Son,  
laud and honor to the Spirit,  
ever three and ever one:  
one in might and one in glory  
while unending ages run!*

HYMN No. 828

*More Love to Thee, O Christ*

*More love to thee, O Christ,  
more love to thee!  
Hear thou the prayer I make  
on bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea:  
more love, O Christ, to thee;  
more love to thee,  
more love to thee!*

*Once earthly joy I craved,  
sought peace and rest.  
Now thee alone I seek;  
give what is best.  
This all my prayer shall be:  
more love, O Christ, to thee;  
more love to thee,  
more love to thee!*

*Then shall my latest breath  
whisper thy praise;  
this be the parting cry  
my heart shall raise.  
This still its prayer shall be:  
more love, O Christ, to thee;  
more love to thee,  
more love to thee!*

HYMN No. 503

*Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*

*Lord, we have come at your own invitation,  
chosen by you, to be counted your friends;  
yours is the strength that sustains dedication;  
ours, a commitment we know never ends.*

*Here, at your table, confirm our intention;  
give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;  
teach us to serve without pride or pretension,  
Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.*

*When, at your table, each time of returning,  
vows are renewed and our courage restored,  
may we increasingly glory in learning  
all that it means to accept you as Lord.*