

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 this morning are given by Martha Ware to the Glory of God and in honor of the Kane family.

COVENANT CHURCH DIRECTORY

PASTOR.....John C. Peterson (he/him)
 ASSOCIATE PASTOR.....Rae Watson (he/ey)
 MINISTER OF MUSIC.....Jeffrey Ryman (he/him)
 ORGANIST.....Christopher Wszalek (he/him)
 HANDBELL DIRECTOR.....Alan Cameron (he/him)
 DEVELOPMENTAL PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR.....Mitzi White (she/her)
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.....Martha Pierce (she/her)
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....Debby Bibens (she/her)
 TREASURER.....Paul Sorrell (he/him)
 COVENANT NURSE.....Kathy Henderson (she/her)
 CUSTODIAN.....Cleo Holly (he/him)

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Tom Bellamy	Sally Griffith	Katie Campbell
Tom Brooks	Clay Robinson	Frances Craig
Melissa Druff	Bob Stripling	Christy Davis
Jacki Dull	Janet Surratt	Kent Diduch
Donna Hamric	Linda Tenney	Troy Kurtz
Sam Hostetter	Dori Walk	Linda Owen
Kristen Lambert	Jane Wimmer	John Sayers



STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
 WORSHIPING WITH JOY, GROWING IN FAITH, SERVING IN LOVE

APRIL 12, 2026

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.....Larson

Come, People of the Risen King

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: Bless the Lord who guides us;

People: whose presence and life sustains us and surrounds us.

Leader: Bless the Lord who is present among us.

People: We will not be shaken or live in fear.

Leader: In God's presence, there is fullness of joy.

People: Let us worship the Lord our God.

*HYMN No. 239.....GELOBT SEI GOTT

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!



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*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a wounded world. We let fear and bigotry keep us from seeing your image in one another. We let greed and power keep us from building beloved community. We let selfishness and self-indulgence keep us from sharing your abundant goodness with neighbors in need. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to live more gratefully and serve you more faithfully each and every day . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Hear and believe the good news of the gospel.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made whole. Alleluia. Amen.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

GROWING IN FAITH

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING.....Pg. 220 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*
2 Corinthians 4:7-12

SECOND READING.....Pg. 141 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*
John 20:24-29

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON.....**RAE WATSON**
“THE WOUNDED CHRIST”

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *from the Confession of 67*

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God’s reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God’s message of reconciliation and shares God’s labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church’s mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and

women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God’s judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church’s own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God’s renewal of human life in society and of God’s victory over all wrong. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN No. 257.....WOODLANDS
The Risen Christ

SERVING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 727.....Gillard
The Servant Song

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE.....Raney
Open My Eyes, That I May See
(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. 239

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

*Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*The Lord of life is risen today!
Death's mighty stone is rolled away.
Let all the earth rejoice and say:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

HYMN No. 257

The Risen Christ

*The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet
from garden tomb through darkened city street,
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.*

*The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,
breathes out his Spirit on them to abide
whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe;
new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.*

*The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand
the bread for those who fail to understand,
reveals himself, despite their lingering tears,
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.*

*May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with the oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.*

HYMN No. 727

The Servant Song

*Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey;
we're together on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.*

*Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.*