

## Welcome!

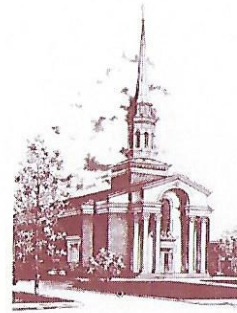
Whether you are a long-time member, occasional worshiper, or new visitor with us, we hope that in this service you will encounter the living Christ and be strengthened by God's promises for you. Please visit our website at [covenantpresstaunton.org](http://covenantpresstaunton.org) to learn more about our ministries and Covenant life together. We are happy to have you as part of our church family today! May God grant you comfort and peace through these challenging days.

### COVENANT CHURCH DIRECTORY

PASTOR.....John C. Peterson  
 DIRECTOR OF YOUTH.....Laura Lawson  
 MINISTER OF MUSIC.....Jeffrey Ryman  
 ORGANIST.....Christopher Wszalek  
 HANDBELL DIRECTOR.....Lou Dolive  
 DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC.....Joan Swift  
 DEVELOPMENTAL PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR.....Mitzi White  
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.....Martha Pierce  
 TREASURER.....Paul Sorrell  
 COVENANT NURSE.....Kathy Henderson  
 CUSTODIAN.....Cleo Holly

### SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Anne Bell	Taylor Chenery	Eileen Cooper
Elissa McDonald	Cora Leigh Clark	Christy Davis
Michael Norris	Tom Compton	Chris Earhart
Troy Rexrode	Michael Gwaltney	Kristen Lambert
Janice Rockwell	Brad Kurtz	Roderic Owen
Louise Scott	Beverly Riddell	Sarah Splaun
Tad Shuey	Janey Terry	Dan Summers-Minette
		Tucker Terry



# Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

NOVEMBER 27, 2022  
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:30 AM

*This service is live streamed on Facebook.*

### STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

One: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the son of God appear.*

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – Cliff and Betty Gilcrest

### WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 122)

Leader: Let us gather in the house of the Lord!

**People: Rejoice and be glad! Praise the Lord!**

Leader: For the sake of all people, pray for peace!

**People: Peace be with you, now and always! Amen**

\*HYMN No. 364.....GILU HAGALILIM

*Lift Up the Gates Eternal*

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION



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**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we confess that we are unprepared for your coming. We are distracted by unholy things and immersed in unholy practices. We love wrongly. We wage war more ardently than we pursue peace. We are blind to our neighbor's needs and deaf to the songs of angels. Lord, quiet in us the din of distractions, and inspire us to hear your voice and to prepare our hearts for your coming. 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!***

**ANTHEM.....Omega Choir**  
*Amazing Day (with chimes) — Rebecca Thompson*

**GROWING IN FAITH**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON.....Pg. 5 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible***  
*Matthew 5:13-18*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON.....KES AMENA BURAYU**

**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. 82.....HYFRYDOL**  
*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**SERVING IN LOVE**

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

**DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES**

**FOUR CENTS PER MEAL**

**DEDICATION ANTHEM**

**PRAYER**

**\*HYMN No. 109.....MERLE'S TUNE**  
*Blest Be the God of Israel*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

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

*Today we welcome to the pulpit Kes Amena Burayu, President of Illubabor  
Bethel Synod, our presbytery's sister church in Ethiopia.*

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

**HYMN No. 364 —  
Lift Up the Gates Eternal**

**Refrain:  
Lift up the gates eternal; lift up your voices;  
the King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.**

**See, all the earth is God's, its people and nations;  
God built it on the deeps and laid its foundations.**

**Who can go up this mountain, who stand in praising?  
Those who are pure, who come with clean hands up-  
raising. (Refrain)**

**Come, lift your voices high; be lifted to glory;  
the Lord our God approaches; come, shout the story.**

**Who is this glorious one, for whom we are waiting?  
We wait the mighty Lord, our God celebrating.  
(Refrain)**

**Come, lift your heads with joy; come,  
lift up your tower;  
the King of glory comes in full might and power.**

**Who is this King of glory of whom we're singing?  
Our God, the Lord of Hosts, the victory is bringing.  
(Refrain)**

**HYMN No. 82—  
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

**HYMN No. 109 — *Blest Be the God of Israel***

***Blest be the God of Israel,  
who comes to set us free;  
who visits and redeems us,  
who grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy,  
of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill that promise  
and bring the people peace.***

***God from the house of David  
a child of grace has given;  
a Savior comes among us  
to raise us up to heaven.  
Before him goes the herald,  
forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation,  
the harbinger of day.***

***On those who sit in darkness  
the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness  
upon the sinner's eyes.  
God guides the feet of pilgrims  
along the paths of peace.  
O bless our God and Savior  
with songs that never cease!***