

Children are always welcome in the Sanctuary during worship.  
 Children's worship notebooks 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!

Today's flowers are offered to God with gratitude for  
 beloved family and friends.

## COVENANT CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

## SESSION

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Taylor Chenery	Eileen Cooper	Cindy Bowman
Cora Leigh Clark	Chris Earhart	Brandon Cline-Taskey
Tom Compton	Kristen Lambert	Linda Foster
Michael Gwaltney	Sue Morley	Joan Sayers
Brad Kurtz	Roderic Owen	Randy Smith
Beverly Riddell	Sarah Splaun	B.C. Sommerfield
Janey Terry	Dan Summers-Minette	Seth Ward
		Kathleen Wilkers



# Covenant Presbyterian Church

Striving to be Faithful Disciples of Christ:

Worshipping with Joy, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

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.....Raney  
*Brethren We Have Met to Worship*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....LAUDA ANIMA  
*Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*

## WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 103)

Leader: Bless the Lord! Never forget God's blessings!

**People: Let all that is within us, bless God's holy name!**

Leader: God's steadfast love endures forever!

**People: God reigns over all! Let all things bless the Lord!**

\*HYMN No. 363.....DARWALL'S 148TH  
*Rejoice, the Lord Is King!*

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION



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\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
God of all, you call us to live peaceably with one another, to love one another, to welcome one another with open arms. We confess that we have not lived into that call. We quarrel too often, love wrongly or not at all, and tolerate poorly those who differ from us. We judge too harshly and forgive too slowly. We live for ourselves instead of living for you. Forgive us, Lord. Soften our hardened hearts, bend our stubborn wills, and remold us in your image, that we may honor you with our lives and our life together. In your mercy, hear our prayer . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen

\*DECLARATION OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — Hymn 435, Stanza 1  
*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.*

**GROWING IN FAITH**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING.....Pg. 197 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*  
*Romans 14:1-12*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 8 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*  
*Matthew 7:1-5*

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

**SERMON.....JOHN PETERSON**  
**"ACCOUNTABLE TO WHOM?"**

MUSICAL REFLECTION

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *A Brief Statement of Faith (4-6 , Spirit)*  
We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves  
and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,

and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.  
In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

\*HYMN No. 822.....SOMOS DEL SEÑOR  
*When We Are Living*

**SERVING IN LOVE**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER (... "sins")

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....Althouse  
*Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You*

PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 754.....BARONITA  
*Help Us Accept Each Other*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE.....ARGENTINA  
*May the God of Hope Go with Us*

POSTLUDE.....Raney  
*We Bow Down*

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

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

HYMN No. 363

*Rejoice, the Lord Is King!*

*Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,  
and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*Our Savior, Jesus, reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*His kingdom cannot fail;  
he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*Rejoice in glorious hope!  
For Christ, the Judge, shall come  
and gather all the saints  
to their eternal home.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

HYMN No. 822

*When We Are Living*

*When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,  
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.  
Both in our living and in our dying,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.*

*Through all our living, we our fruits must give.  
Good works of service are for offering.  
When we are giving, or when receiving,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.*

*'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,  
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,  
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.*

*Across this wide world, we shall always find  
those who are crying with no peace of mind,  
but when we help them, or when we feed them,  
we belong to God; we belong to God.*

HYMN No. 754

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

*Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us  
and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted,  
and meant to love and live.*

*Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them,  
or as they may become.*

*Let your acceptance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance  
until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness,  
and laughter's healing art.*

*Lord, for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for justice and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit;  
Lord, free us; make us one!*