

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! May God grant you comfort and peace. Stay safe and be well. Blessings!

### COVENANT CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

### SESSION MEMBERS

| Class of 2024   | Class of 2025        | Class of 2026 |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Eileen Cooper   | Cindy Bowman         | Tom Bellamy   |
| Chris Earhart   | Brandon Cline-Taskey | Tom Brooks    |
| Kristen Lambert | Mandy Drumheller     | Melissa Druff |
| Sue Morley      | Linda Foster         | Jacki Dull    |
| Roderic Owen    | Joan Sayers          | Donna Hamric  |
| Sarah Splaun    | Randy Smith          | Sam Hostetter |
| Dan Summers-    | B.C. Sommerfield     | David Stahl   |
| Minette         | Seth Ward            |               |



# Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

JANUARY 28, 2024

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.....Walther

*Lobe den Herren*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....SALZBURG

*Let the Whole Creation Cry*

### WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 111)

Leader: Come and praise God!

**People: Let the whole congregation give thanks!**

Leader: Great are the works of God, full of glory and majesty.

**People: Our God is gracious and compassionate.**

Leader: Our God is just and good.

**People: So come, let's worship God together.**

Leader: God's praise will last forever!

\*HYMN No. 35.....LOBE DEN HERREN

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*



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 STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we struggle to listen to your powerful teaching. We are confused and unwilling to follow. You call us to wonder about new possibilities, but we prefer the status quo. You challenge systems of injustice, but we choose our own comfort. You offer us compassion, but we do not extend kindness to strangers or friends. Forgive us, Lord. Open our hearts and minds to your teaching. Create in us new spirits, filled with your love, offering peace and hope to all. Lord, hear our prayer . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen.

\*DECLARATION OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — Hymn No. 2143

*O Lord, your tenderness, melting all my bitterness;  
O Lord, I receive your love.  
O Lord, your loveliness, changing my unworthiness;  
O Lord, I receive your love.  
O Lord, I receive your love; O Lord, I receive your love.*

ANTHEM.....Omega Choir  
*The Light Of God's Love - Mark Burrows*

**GROWING IN FAITH**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE — All children are welcome to come forward. Those parents 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. 218 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible*  
*Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 43 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*  
*Mark 1:21-28*

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

SERMON.....RACHEL WATSON  
“ASTOUNDED, HEALED, AMAZED”

MUSICAL REFLECTION

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.08*

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and

national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all. Amen.

\*HYMN No. 181.....EBENEZER  
*Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

HYMN No. 2226— *Bind Us Together*  
*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together  
with cords that cannot be broken. (2x)  
There is only one God, there is only one King;  
There is only one body, that is why we sing.  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,  
bind us together in love. (2x)*

**SERVING IN LOVE**

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION.....Becky Wszalek

FOUR CENTS PER MEAL

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM.....Pote  
*For the Music of Creation*

PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 722.....CANONBURY  
*Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE.....SICILIAN MARINERS  
*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

POSTLUDE.....Good  
*Epilogue on Ebenezer*

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

\*Those who are able, please stand.

*Today we welcome the following new members:  
Laura Matheny by Reaffirmation of Faith  
Kara and Martin Miller (with Meredith and Madeleine)  
by Reaffirmation of Faith  
Douglas Watson by letter of transfer from  
St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX  
Karen and Lily Watson by letter of transfer from  
University Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX*

HYMN No. 35

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

***Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!***

***Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?***

***Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
gladly for aye we adore him.***

HYMN No. 181

*Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit*

***"Silence! Frenzied, unclean spirit,"  
cried God's healing, Holy One.  
"Cease your ranting! Flesh can't bear it.  
Flee as night before the sun."  
At Christ's voice the demon trembled,  
from its victim madly rushed,  
while the crowd that was assembled  
stood in wonder, stunned, and hushed.***

***Lord, the demons still are thriving  
in the gray cells of the mind:  
tyrant voices, shrill and driving,  
twisted thoughts that grip and bind,  
doubts that stir the heart to panic,  
fears distorting reason's sight,  
guilt that makes our loving frantic,  
dreams that cloud the soul with fright.***

***Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit,  
in our mind and in our heart.  
Speak your word that when we hear it  
all our demons shall depart.  
Clear our thought and calm our feeling;  
still the fractured, warring soul.  
By the power of your healing  
make us faithful, true, and whole.***

HYMN No. 722

*Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

***Lord, speak to me that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek  
your erring children lost and lone.***

***O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet.  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
your hungering ones with manna sweet.***

***O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
the precious truths which you impart.  
And wing my words that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.***

***O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.***

***O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as you will, and when, and where  
until your blessed face I see,  
your rest, your joy, your glory share.***