

## 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!

### 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- Minette	Seth Ward	David Stahl



# Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

APRIL 14, 2024

10:30 AM

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

*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.....Marcello

*Psalm 19*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....DUKE STREET

*Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

### WORSHIPING WITH JOY

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God calls us by name.

**People: We belong to God.**

Leader: God calls us by name.

**People: We are called Beloved.**

Leader: God calls us by name.

**People: We are God's own children.**

Leader: Let us worship the one who loves us.

**People: Let us worship God together.**

\*HYMN No. 305.....DARWALL'S 148th

*Come Sing, O Church, in Joy*



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 STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that we are afraid – afraid of the unknown; afraid of what we cannot control; afraid of what we don’t understand. We confess that we let fear stop us, hinder our actions, and be our excuse for inaction. We walk away from our neighbors in need. We ignore the pain of the world. We leave the work for justice to someone stronger. Forgive us, Lord. Give us courage and strength that we might set aside our fear and live in ways that reflect your grace and love into this world. Lord, hear our prayer . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen.**

\*DECLARATION OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — Hymn No. 234, Stanza 2  
***‘Tis the spring of souls today; Christ has burst his prison, and from three days’ sleep in death as a sun has risen. All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.***

**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.)*

FIRST READING.....Pg. 111 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible John 1:9-14*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 291 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible 1 John 3:1-7*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON.....RACHEL WATSON  
**“BECOMING”**

MUSICAL REFLECTION

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *The Apostles’ Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the**

**right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*HYMN No. 684.....LUX PRIMA

*Faith Begins by Letting Go*

**SERVING IN LOVE**

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

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM.....Sleeth

*Hymn of Promise*

PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 295.....SINE NOMINE

*Go to the World*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE.....Fishel

*Alleluia*

POSTLUDE.....Burtonwood

*Go, My Children*

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

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

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*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)*

HYMN No. 305

*Come Sing, O Church, in Joy*

***Come sing, O church, in joy!  
Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us  
through the ages long!***

**REFRAIN:**

***In bold accord,  
come celebrate the journey now  
and praise the Lord!***

***Long years have come and gone,  
and still God reigns supreme,  
empowering us to catch the vision,  
dream the dream! (Refrain)***

***Let courage be our friend;  
let wisdom be our guide,  
as we in mission magnify  
the Crucified! (Refrain)***

***Come sing, O church, in joy!  
Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er  
the ages long! (Refrain)***

HYMN No. 684

*Faith Begins by Letting Go*

***Faith begins by letting go,  
giving up what had seemed sure,  
taking risks and pressing on,  
though the way feels less secure:  
pilgrimage both right and odd,  
trusting all our life to God.***

***Faith endures by holding on,  
keeping memory's roots alive  
so that hope may bear its fruit;  
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,  
not through merit we possess  
but by God's great faithfulness.***

***Faith matures by reaching out,  
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,  
sharing struggles, living prayer,  
binding up the broken parts;  
till we find the commonplace  
ripe with witness to God's grace.***

HYMN No. 295

*Go to the World*

***Go to the world! Go into all the earth.  
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,  
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.***

***Go to the world! Go into every place.  
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.  
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.***

***Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;  
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.  
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.***

***Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
for I am with you till the age shall end,  
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"  
Alleluia. Alleluia.***