

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 today are given by David and Laura Stahl in honor of their daughters, Zoe and Julia, who are graduating next week from Bridgewater College and in celebration of their 28th wedding anniversary.

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 28, 2024
 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.....Whitsett

Abide with Me

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....CELEBRATION

In the Presence of Your People

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 22)

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD.

People: All the families of nations shall worship the LORD.

Leader: Dominion over all things belongs to the LORD alone!

People: The LORD rules over all! Praise the LORD!

*HYMN No. 285.....BRIDEGROOM

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION



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*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you are the source of our life and the inspiration for our living. All good gifts come from you. Forgive us for being ungrateful and unfruitful, for we take our gifts for granted and use them selfishly. We share reluctantly, love wrongly, and forgive grudgingly. We fail to do what you ask of us, and we do the very things you forbid. Have mercy upon us. Abide in us, Lord, and inspire us by your Spirit to abide in you, so that we may be more faithful, more joyful, more fruitful disciples. In your mercy, hear our prayer . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — Hymn No. 466

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!*

ANTHEM.....Omega Choir

I See You, God - 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. 292 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*
I John 4:15-16

SECOND READING.....Pg. 133 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*
John 15:1-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON.....**JOHN PETERSON**

“THE FRUIT DOESN’T FALL FAR FROM THE VINE”

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. 2149.....Chisolm/Lowden

Living for Jesus

SERVING IN LOVE

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

FOUR CENTS PER MEAL

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM.....Aguiar

Salmo 150

*Praise the Lord in his sacred places,
praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his mighty acts,
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him with the sound of the trumpet,
praise him with the psaltery and the harp.
Praise him with the timbrel and the dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.
Praise him with high-sounding cymbals,
praise him with cymbals of joy.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!*

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 157.....LORD OF THE DANCE

I Danced in the Morning

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE.....Aguiar

Salmo 150

POSTLUDE.....Hayes

Since Jesus Came Into My Heart

(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. 285

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

*Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to our midst as gift and sign:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

HYMN No. 2149

Living for Jesus

*Living for Jesus a life that is true,
striving to please him in all that I do,
yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,
this is the pathway of blessing for me.*

Refrain:

*O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee;
for thou, in thy atonement, didst give thyself for me;
I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne,
my life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for thee alone.*

*Living for Jesus who died in my place,
bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace,
such love constrains me to answer hi call,
follow his leading and give him my all.
(Refrain)*

*Living for Jesus wherever I am,
doing each duty in his holy name,
willing to suffer affliction or loss,
deeming each trial a part of my cross.
(Refrain)*

*Living for Jesus through earth's little while,
my dearest treasure, the light of his smile,
seeing the lost ones he died to redeem,
bringing the weary to find rest in him.
(Refrain)*

HYMN No. 157

I Danced in the Morning

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.*

Refrain:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

*I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.
They came with me and the dance went on. (Refrain)*

*I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. (Refrain)*

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. (Refrain)*

*They cut me down and I leapt up high.
I am the life that will never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. (Refrain)*