

Bringing forward the communion elements this morning are
Rebecca Bussey and Jonathan Griffith.

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)

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

The flowers today are given by Debbie and Randy Smith in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on November 30th.

COVENANT CHURCH DIRECTORY

PASTOR..... John C. Peterson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR..... Rachel Watson
MINISTER OF MUSIC..... Jeffrey Ryman
ORGANIST..... Christopher Wszalek
HANDBELL DIRECTOR..... Lou Dolive
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

DECEMBER 1, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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..... Hopson
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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 — The Bussey Family

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 25)

Leader: Trust in the Lord our God!

People: The Lord is the God of our salvation!

Leader: God's steadfast love and mercy endure forever!

People: With hope-filled hearts we await the Lord's coming!

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

Lift Up the Gates Eternal



2001 NORTH COALTER STREET
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we are unprepared for your coming. After two thousand years, we no longer wait expectantly. 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; inspire us to hear your voice, to anticipate your return, 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!***

PASSING THE PEACE — Please sign and pass the Friendship Register

GROWING IN FAITH

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE — Those 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. 249 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible 1 Thessalonians 3:4-13*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 104 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible Luke 21:25-28, 34-36*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**JOHN PETERSON**

“HOLY WAITING”

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. 313.....African-American Spiritual
Lord, Make Us More Holy

SERVING IN LOVE

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

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM.....Lantz
The Light Will Soon Appear

PRAYER

HYMN No. 347 (stanzas 1-2)PICARDY
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

***Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.***

***King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.***

THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(The Sanctus is Hymn No. 562)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(We will partake of the Communion elements together after all are served.)

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 92.....TRURO
While We Are Waiting, Come

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE.....African-American Spiritual
Go! Tell It on the Mountain

POSTLUDE.....Vaughan Williams
Hyffrydol

(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. 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 upraising.***
(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. 313

Lord, Make Us More Holy

***Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy,
until we meet again:
holy, holy, holy,
until we meet again.***

***Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving,
until we meet again:
loving, loving, loving,
until we meet again.***

***Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient,
until we meet again:
patient, patient, patient,
until we meet again.***

***Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful,
until we meet again:
faithful, faithful, faithful,
until we meet again.***

HYMN No. 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

***While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.***

Refrain:

***Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.***

***With power and glory, come;
with power and glory, come.***
(Refrain)

***Come, Savior, quickly come;
come, Savior, quickly come.***
(Refrain)