

Liturgist: Laura Lawson

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Bringing forward the communion elements this morning are  
Anna Drumheller and Sullivan Knox.

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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.

### 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  
DEVELOPMENTAL PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR..... Mitzi White  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT..... Martha Pierce  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY..... Debby Bibens  
TREASURER..... Paul Sorrell  
COVENANT NURSE..... Kathy Henderson  
CUSTODIAN..... Cleo Holly

### SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Cindy Bowman	Tom Bellamy	Sally Griffith
Brandon Cline-Taskey	Tom Brooks	Clay Robinson
Mandy Drumheller	Melissa Druff	Bob Stripling
Linda Foster	Jacki Dull	Janet Surratt
Joan Sayers	Donna Hamric	Linda Tenney
Randy Smith	Sam Hostetter	Dori Walk
Seth Ward	David Stahl	Jane Wimmer



# Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

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

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....MARION

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

### WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 71)

Leader: The Lord is our refuge and salvation!

**People: Our hope is in the Lord our God!**

Leader: God's righteousness and faithfulness never end!

**People: Shout and sing for joy! Praise the Lord!**

\*HYMN No. 611.....HYMN TO JOY

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*



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STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Lord, we confess that we do not love as you call us to love, live as you call us to live, or forgive as you call us to forgive. We are selfish, self-righteous, and self-centered, violating your commandments and ignoring the needs of our neighbors. We are too often impatient, unkind, hypocritical, and resentful of others, while daring to call ourselves your disciples. Merciful God, have mercy upon us. Melt our hardened hearts, bend our stubborn wills, and stir in us love for you and our neighbors – all our neighbors. O Lord, hear our prayer. . . (silent confession) . . . Amen

\*DECLARATION OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — Hymn No. 449,  
Alt. Tune: Old Hundredth

*Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love,  
and let your saving grace be near;  
when we return with open hearts  
the Lord speaks peace and we will hear.*

**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. 770 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible Song of Solomon 8:6-7*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 212 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible 1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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

**“A LOVE SONG”**

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. 693.....Hopson

*The Gift of Love*

**SERVING IN LOVE**

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

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....Palestrina

*Sicut Cervus*

PRAYER

HYMN No. 515 (stanzas 1 & 2) .....DOVE OF PEACE

*I Come with Joy*

**I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near to find as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ’s communion bread,  
in Christ’s communion bread.**

**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. 559)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 300.....Scholtes

*They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE.....Donaldson

*We Will Go Out with Joy*

POSTLUDE.....Raney

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*(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. 611

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.*

*Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee;  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.*

*Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Mortals, join the happy chorus  
which the morning stars began.  
Love divine is reigning o'er us,  
joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife.  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.*

HYMN No. 693

*The Gift of Love*

*Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.*

HYMN No. 300

*They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love*

*We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;  
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:*

*Refrain:  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;  
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
(Refrain)*

*We will work with each other; we will work side by side;  
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,  
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:  
(Refrain)*

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (Refrain)*