

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 to the Glory of God
by Chris and Becky Earhart in memory of
their mothers Sarah Earhart and Marge Langfitt.

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

MAY 11, 2025 10:30 AM
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship, please silence any mobile devices.
This service is live streamed on YouTube.*

STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

PRELUDE..... Hopson
Morning Has Broken
JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION
INTROIT..... Tutu/ Bell
Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Revelation 7)
Leader: The Lord reigns over all!
People: The Lord is our shelter and our salvation!
Leader: Power, honor, and wisdom belong to the Lord our God!
People: Blessing and glory be to our God forever and ever! Amen!

*HYMN No. 268..... DIADEMATA
Crown Him with Many Crowns



2001 NORTH COALTER STREET
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, heaven and earth shout your glory. We confess that we offer much more tepid praise, for we take for granted our blessings and doubt what you can do – for us and through us. We hoard our gifts instead of offering them in your service. We fall short of who you created us to be. Lord, forgive our feeble faith and our lack of faithfulness. Stir in us faith that shines brightly in our lives, inspiring us to trust you wholeheartedly, follow you faithfully, and serve you joyfully. Lord, hear our prayer . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – Hymn No. 649, stanza 1

***Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.***

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. 844 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible*
Isaiah 60:1-3

SECOND READING.....Pg. 156 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*
Acts 9:32-43

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

“RISE AND SHINE!”

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. 324.....NYLAND

For All the Faithful Women

SERVING IN LOVE

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

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....Rutter

For the Beauty of the Earth

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 744.....FESTAL SONG

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE.....Gillard

The Servant Song

POSTLUDE.....Payne

Crown Him with Many Crowns

(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. 268

Crown Him with Many Crowns

*Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!*

*Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.*

*Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.*

*Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end;
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.*

*Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time;
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.*

HYMN No. 324

For All the Faithful Women

*For all the faithful women who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.*

*We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly
while Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;
for Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,
who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death.*

*We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan
while Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.
We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb
and found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.*

*Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.
O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,
that, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.*

HYMN No. 744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

*Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.*

*Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty,
good tidings to the poor.*

*Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.*

*Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.*