

## 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!

The flowers today are given by Debbie Melvin, Rob Darracott, and their families to the glory of God and in honor of their mother Carrie Darracott's 80th birthday.

### 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 18, 2025  
 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 YouTube.*

### STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

PRELUDE.....Evanovich

*All Creatures of Our God*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....THE COVENANT RINGERS

*Grazioso - Arnold Sherman*

### WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Revelation 148)

Leader: Praise the Lord from the heavens!

**People: Praise the Lord from the heights and depths!**

Leader: Praise the name of the Lord, for the Lord created all things!

**People: Let all creation sing praises to the Lord!**

\*HYMN No. 15 (Stanzas 1, 2, 6).....LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
*All Creatures of Our God and King*



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\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, all creation belongs to you, for it is the work of your hands. We confess that too often we regard ourselves as the creators instead of your creations. We are poor stewards of the earth you have entrusted to our care, selfishly taking for ourselves what should be shared with our neighbors and with future generations. We lack clean hands and pure hearts, for they are tainted by sin. Merciful God, forgive us. Remold us in your image, that we may live with integrity, reflect your glory, and be a blessing to you and your children. 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.*

ANTHEM.....THE COVENANT RINGERS

*Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?* — arr. Lloyd Larson

**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. 617 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible*  
Psalm 24

SECOND READING.....Pg. 204 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*  
*I Corinthians 3:18-23*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON.....JOHN PETERSON

**“BELONGING”**

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. 364.....GILU HAGALILIM

*Lift Up the Gates Eternal*

**SERVING IN LOVE**

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....Sleeth

*Hymn of Promise*

PRAYER

\*HYMN .....See inside back cover of hymnal

*Creative and Creating God*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE.....Dresden

*Amen*

POSTLUDE.....Diemer

*Sing Praise to God*

*(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. 15 (Stanzas 1, 2, 6)  
*All Creatures of Our God and King*

*All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O brother sun with golden beam,  
O sister moon with silver gleam,  
sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O brother wind with clouds and rain,  
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O sister water, flowing clear,  
make music for your Lord to hear.  
Sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
and worship God with humble heart.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
Sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

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  
*Creative and Creating God*

*Creative and creating God,  
You scattered stars in space.  
Carved out the mountains, molded sod  
Set continents in place.  
In times long past you filled the seas,  
And traced each river's flow.  
With rainstorm, sun, and cooling breeze  
You urged all things to grow.*

*In love You have created all,  
For harmony and peace.  
Through saintly souls we hear your call  
As challenges increase.  
So teach us to appreciate,  
In voices calm and clear,  
All things both plain and intricate,  
Since all to You are dear.*

*Each in our way, we creatures, sing  
Our never-ending praise:  
Birds warble carols on the wing,  
And choirs their anthems raise.  
So may our lives be one great song,  
Resounding in this place,  
Reflecting, echoing along  
The music of your grace.*