



*"Here's my heart. Take and seal it.
Seal it for thy courts above."*

April 7, 2024
The Second Sunday of Easter

Ministers
Pastor
Director of Faith Formation Ministries
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Director of Preschool
Maintenance Superintendent
Administrator/Recording Treasurer

All the People of Covenant
Dr. Kyle Allen
Jewel Aagaard
Richard Rudolph
Ronn Lowe
Anne Craig
Mark Overacker
Gail Schuler

1831 Deyerle Road SW, Roanoke, VA 24018
540-989-3314 • office@covroanoke.org
covenantroanoke.org

Loving God, Loving People, Making Disciples

Gathering

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

*Chiming of the Hour and Presentation of the Word

Prelude

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"
arr. Larry Shackley

Ruth Rieger, piano

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

One: Jesus said,

All: "Follow me."

One: Jesus said,

All: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

One: Jesus said,

All: "Forgive seventy times seven."

One: Jesus said,

All: "Feed my sheep."

One: In response, we say:

All: "Here's my heart.

Take and seal it.

Seal it for thy courts above."

One: Let us worship God with all our hearts.

*Hymn of Resurrection (see insert)

"In Christ Alone"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Gracious God,

like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink.

You tell us your truth and we push it away.

We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance.

We profess our faith and deny it three times.

We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence.

Over and over again,

we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith.

Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial,

and our limited imagination.

Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you.

With humble hearts we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

*Passing of the Peace

(Greet one another, "Peace be with you.")

Time with Our Children

"We're God's Family"

Covenant Kids

Teaching

Song for Illumination, #458

"Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet"

Scripture Reading

John 21:1-19 (Pew Bible, NT pp. 101-102)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

"Surprising Modalities"

Jewel Aagaard

Director of Faith Formation

***Affirmation of Faith** (*in unison*)

**We believe in a God who shows up in our lives –
surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways.
We believe in a God who cares for God’s people –
a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended.
We believe in a God who took on flesh –
a God whose love changed the world as we know it.
We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat,
calling ordinary people like Peter, like us,
into a life of service and community.
And so we give our hearts.
We give our whole hearts and nothing less. Amen.**

***Communion Hymn, #519**

"You Are My Strength When I Am Weak"

(The band will sing first; the congregation will join on the repeat)

Nurturing

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Receiving and Sharing the Sacrament of Grace

Communion Meditation

"Into My Heart"

arr. Theresa Wilhelmi

Ruth Rieger, piano

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

(Hymnal p. 35)

Celebration of Giving+

Offertory

"Moment by Moment"

arr. Cindy Berry

Ruth Rieger, piano

***Hymn of Rejoicing, #613**

"O Lord, Our Lord (How Majestic is Your Name)"

Reaching

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

"When We All Get to Heaven"

arr. Cindy Berry

Ruth Rieger, piano



Welcome! We are blessed to have you join our worship today, and we hope to keep seeing you! More information about Covenant is available on our website at covenantroanoke.org and you can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter. We would love to get to know you better, and a card is available in the pew before you to begin this journey together.

Greetings, Parents! Children are always welcome in our worship services. If you so choose, a professionally staffed nursery is available for children ages 3 and younger. Please ask an usher for assistance. **We also have a Parents Room** just outside the Sanctuary, with a changing table and rocking chairs. **Children's bulletins and activity bags are available** on the table in Heritage Hall.

Special thanks to Elizabeth Allen, Lisa Farthing, Carol Merritt, Sherry Moran, our Children's Sunday School Class, and the Covenant Band (Jewel Aagaard, Roger Dickenson, and Richard Rudolph) for leading us in worship this morning.

We are pleased to welcome Ruth Rieger as our guest pianist today. Ronn Lowe is on vacation this week.

Cookies and lemonade await you! After worship, all are welcome to gather in Heritage Hall (the entrance area) to visit with church members and guests. Special thanks to Barbara Boyd and Carol Gentry for hosting this morning.

Greeter: Jim Ryals

Ushers: Joe Gentry, Maggie Moen, Kathryn Overacker, Pete Trussell

Elder of the Month: Carol Merritt

Deacon of the Month: Laura O'Dell

Assistant Deacon of the Month: Donna Jones

Sound: Roger Dickenson

Video/Livestream: Jena Bircher, Pranav Singh



In Our Prayers . . . Church Members: Christine Beck, Tricia Cronise, Mary Jane Fisher, Lynnmarie Hancock, Walter Jones, Jerry Lawson, Joann McElmurray, Lindsey Nanz, Peggy Phillips, Ann Cecil Renick, Carol Ryan, June and Forrest Smith, Jo Wilson, Betty Young, caregivers, military service members and families

Family & Friends: Rob Adcox, Rob Ahlers, Lowell Bashlor, Jr., Aubrey Bayne, Kenneth Benner, William "Buzz" Caddell, Mike Cummings, Patrick Dooley, Maria Dreiling, Cesia Enriquez, Peggy Evans, Heather Ford, Larry Gray, Jim Haugen, Tyler and Rochelle Holm, the people of Malawi, Jim McGill, Bob & Betty Sizemore, Ezra Schuyler Soto, Daniel Woodbury, Religious violence against Christians in northeast India

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