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**July 21, 2024**  
**Christmas in July**

**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

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# Loving God, Loving People, Making Disciples

## Gathering

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit*

### \*Chiming of the Hour and Presentation of the Word

**Prelude** "Sing We Now of Christmas"  
Douglas Wagner

### Welcome and Announcements

*During our morning announcements,  
please take time to pass and sign the friendship pads.*

### Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

**Introit** "We Three Kings of Orient Are"  
Robert Stigall  
*Devon Ramsburg, trumpet; Scott Ramsburg, piano*

### \*Call to Worship

One: On Christmas in July  
**All: let us remember the gift of Your Son  
and Your everlasting hope!  
Let us worship the Lord!**

**\*Opening Hymn, #113** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

**Call to Confession** Devon Ramsburg

**Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

**Merciful God, we know you pardon everyone who comes to you with an open heart. We come this morning ashamed of what we have done, and sorry for the things we have left to do. You ask us to love you, and to love our neighbors, but we find loopholes. We walk away from moments where we could do justice and love kindness. Instead of walking humbly with you, we seek our own paths. Forgive us, O God. Give us strength to trust in your promises and to walk in your love and light. Amen.**

### Declaration of Forgiveness

**Hymn #123** (verse 1) "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"  
*Children are invited to come forward as we sing.*

**Time with Our Children** Jewel Aagaard  
Director of Faith Formation

### Test Your Angel Knowledge

**\*Passing of the Peace** (Greet one another, "Peace be with you.")

*Children ages 2 – 11 may leave for Children's Worship  
and will return during the last hymn.*

*Please return to your seats as we sing  
Hymn #147 (verse 1) "The First Nowell."*

**The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

## Teaching

**Prayer for Illumination**

Lindsey Nanz

**Scripture Readings**

Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible, NT p. 1)

Luke 2:8-20 (Pew Bible, NT pp. 50-51)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God for it.**

**Homily**

“Entertaining Angels”

Laura Jane Ramsburg  
Missional Commissioned Pastor

## Nurturing

**Celebration of Giving+**

**Offertory**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
Dennis Janzer

**\*Doxology, #634**

“To God Be the Glory”

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

(Hymnal, p. 35)

## Reaching

**Gratitude for the Gifts Given: An Update from the Finance Committee**

*Members of the Finance Committee will be available  
after the service in the Fellowship Hall to answer questions.*

**\*Closing Hymn, #69**

“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)”

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Trinity Chimes**

*Our Trinity Chimes played before the postlude provide the opportunity to sit and enjoy the end of our service with music, or to exit quietly as our Livestream continues for this part of worship.*

**Postlude**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”  
Christopher Uehlein



**Music Notes from Ronn Lowe:** “Sing We Now of Christmas” is a French Carol tune with a haunting melody. The words were written all the way back in 1643 by Jean de Brebeuf, a Christian missionary to the Huron Indians. The composer of this setting is Douglas Wagner, an internationally recognized composer and church musician. “O Little Town of Bethlehem” uses the beautiful Oboe stop on the Covenant organ. “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” was renamed from “Good Christian, Men Rejoice” to be more inclusive. The composer, Christopher Uehlein, was an American composer and Benedictine Monk at the Blue Cloud Abbey Monastery in South Dakota. Today’s piece is from his *Blue Cloud Abbey Christmas Organ Book*.

**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](http://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. **We also have a Parents Room** just outside the Sanctuary, with a changing table and rocking chairs. Please ask an usher for assistance if needed. **Children's bulletins and activity bags are available** on the table in Heritage Hall. **We offer Children's Worship** during the second half of the service for children ages 2 to 11.

**You are invited to share your Joys and Concerns by writing them in the book on the stand outside the sanctuary.** These will be included in the Prayers of the People during our worship service. (If you have a concern of a personal nature, please speak with the pastor or contact the office.)

**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. Thank you to Gene Collier and Sherry Moran for hosting this morning!

***The flowers in the chancel today are given by  
Rick and Melissa Cranwell to the glory of God and  
in celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary.  
Congratulations!***

**Ushers:** Covenant Youth

**Greeter:** Sharon Nanz

**Elder of the Month:** Sandra Ryals

**Deacon of the Month:** Teri Ponton

**Liturgist/Assistant Deacon of the Month:** Lindsey Nanz

**Sound:** Roger Dickenson

**Video/Livestream:** Jena Bircher, Pranav Singh

#### **In Our Prayers . . .**



**Church Members:** Christine Beck, Tricia Cronise, Mary Jane Fisher, Lynnmarie Hancock, Jerry Lawson, Joann McElmurray, Lindsey Nanz, Ann Cecil Renick, Sandra Ryals, Carol Ryan, June and Forrest Smith, Jo Wilson, caregivers, military service members and families

**Family & Friends:** Greg Adcox (brother of our sexton, Rob Adcox), Rob Ahlers, Lowell Bashlor, Jr., Kenneth Benner, Mike Cummings, Patrick Dooley, Maria Dreiling, Cesia Enriquez, Heather Ford, Larry Gray, Jo Jones, Pauline Mudrick, Bob & Betty Sizemore, Ezra Schuyler Soto, Beth Anne Slone, Daniel Woodbury; Religious violence against Christians in northeast India; Mission co-workers Tyler & Rochelle Holm and the people of Malawi, Jim McGill (Niger)

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