

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Westminster Larger Catechism,
Questions 67 & 70

Leader: What is effectual calling?

People: **Effectual calling is the work of God's almighty power and grace, whereby out of his free and special love to his elect, and from nothing else in them moving him thereunto, God does, in his accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus Christ by his Word and Spirit... enlightening their minds, renewing and powerfully determining their wills, so as they are made willing and able freely to answer his call, and to accept and embrace the grace offered and conveyed to them.**

Leader: What is justification?

People: **Justification is an act of God's free grace unto sinners, in which he pardons all their sins, accepts and accounts their persons righteous in his sight; not for any thing wrought in them, or done by them, but only for the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ, received by faith alone.**

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *Send Out Thy Light* C. Gounod

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jeremiah 1:4-10 *(Pew Bible p. 662)*

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE CHOIR ANTHEM *Truly My Soul Waiteth upon God* Healey Willan

THE EPISTLE LESSON 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 *(Pew Bible p. 165)*

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle. All: **Praise be to you, O Lord.**

*THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 4:21-30 *(Pew Bible p. 58)*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord. All: **Glory to You, O Christ.**

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE - Hymn 327, vs. 2 MUNICH

*The church from You, dear Savior, Received this gift divine,
And still that light is lifted On all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass That, all life's voyage through,
Amid the rocks and quick-sands, Still guides, O Christ, to You.*

THE SERMON "THE POWER OF LOVE" Dr. Swanson

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "debts" and "debtors")

THE THREE-FOLD AMEN Danish

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Hold Fast to What Is Good* John Purifoy

*THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

*THE UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, Giver of all good gifts: we humbly dedicate these offerings to you. Teach us how to give so that our lives may also be an offering, holy and acceptable in your sight. In word and deed, through acts of service and love, may the work of your Kingdom be advanced here and in Heaven above. Amen.

*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN 339 *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE A Prayer of St. Patrick John Rutter

*THE TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor: Now may the blessing of God rest on our heads,
 And the Truth of God set us free from all dangers, real and perceived;
 So that in our labor and in our leisure,
 In our rising up and our sitting down,
 In hours of joy or in days of sorrow,
 We shall with gladness of heart
 Commend our lives wholly unto Him who keeps us from falling.

People: **Through Christ, our Lord! His peace endures!**

THE POSTLUDE *Allegro* Thomas Arne

*Those who are able, please stand.

GREETINGS to all this day who worship the God of past, present and future. We want to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to others sitting nearby during the passing of the peace.

THE GREETERS TODAY - Greeting our members and visitors before the Sunday worship services in January are Rev. J. (Bill) and Jennie Jamieson.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR immediately follows this worship service directly downstairs in the Assembly Room. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. Hosting today's Fellowship Hour is Connie Brown.

A SPECIAL SESSION MEETING will be held TODAY, January 28th in the Connell Room following this morning's worship service.

MOVIE NIGHT POSTPONED Due to severe weather, the viewing of *The Cider House Rules* was postponed but will be rescheduled soon. Watch for details !

A NEW SEEKERS SERIES BEGINS next Sunday. The Rev. Mr. Fred Young, returning to Covenant as a featured speaker, will begin his four-part series on Sunday, February 4 on the topic of "Listening Skills." The greatest listener was Jesus. The class will reflect on some of the passages of scripture that might help see this, think about how listening affects our relationships and even how some of what we study may apply to our prayer times. The series will examine the following:

- What is communication?
- What are the barriers to communication?
- Steps necessary for communication
- What is good communication

Our unique and intriguing Adult Sunday School Class meets each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in the Assembly Room. Invite a Friend (or two)!

THE ANNUAL CORPORATION MEETING of Covenant Presbyterian Church for the presentation of the budget, end of year reports, and approval of pastor's terms of call for 2007 will be held next Sunday, February 4th in the Sanctuary immediately following the morning worship service. All members of the church are encouraged to stay for the meeting.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER will be celebrated next Sunday, February 4th during the 11 a.m. worship service.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH -- a nationwide program to raise awareness of hunger in our communities and to collect funds for the local food bank of choice will be held next Sunday, February 4th. A collection plate will be at both entrances to the Sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$1 or more. Your donation will benefit the Covenant Cupboard.

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns . . .

Bob Moore Hospitalized in Butler, pacemaker inserted, pray for quick recovery and return to NewHaven
LaRose Black Recently hospitalized, now home; pray for health
Donna Hobaugh Pray for a successful surgery on Tues., Jan. 30
Linda Peters and Family . . . Pray for comfort and healing in this time of grief
Ellie Walchesky Give thanks for surgery, pray for healing of infection
Dorothy Hitchcock Now home, pray for strength and endurance
Ken Strobel Pray for health; Remember Gladys in caring for Ken
Paul Hoffman Ask God's care for Paul and reassurance for Mary
Marylou Wilson Recently hospitalized, pray for improved health
Muriel Thompson Pray for success of chemotherapy and peace of mind
Betty Graves. Home now, pray for improved health and strength for daughter Nancy in giving daily care
Bud & Julie Bruno Pray for strength and health and better days ahead

Celebrating Birthdays this week ...

Muriel Thompson - January 31
Lowell Wetzel - February 2

No Anniversaries to report this week.

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary and you would like us to publish the date in the Chronicle and bulletin, please call the church office at 724-287-7731.

COVENANT CUPBOARD:

February - catsup, mustard, mayonnaise

Baskets available at the front entrance.

Food Distribution Schedule:

Feb. 12 and Feb. 15 - Last name A through K

Feb. 19 and Feb. 22 - Last name L through Z

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Worship & Music - Tuesday, February 6th at 7 pm in the Connell Room

Ten things God Won't Ask on Judgment Day*

1. God won't ask what kind of car you drove.
He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
2. God won't ask the square footage of your house.
He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
3. God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet.
He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
4. God won't ask what your highest salary was.
He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
5. God won't ask what your job title was.
He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
6. God won't ask how many friends you had.
He'll ask how many people you befriended.
7. God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived.
He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
8. God won't ask about the color of your skin.
He'll ask about the content of your character.
9. God won't ask if you enjoyed peace or found justice in life.
He'll ask what you did to make peace and justice a reality for others.
10. God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation.
He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven,
and not to the gates of Hell.

*Thanks to the Dunmires for forwarding this thought-provoking email to us.
If you receive an email that you would like to share, please forward it to the
church at: covenantupchurch@aol.com

FROM BEAVER-BUTLER PRESBYTERY

“Important Issues Affecting Our Denomination”

Denominational concerns task force

PUP Report

The Trinity

Gay Ordination

Rigid or Flexible?

Shall we pay Per Capita?

Who owns our property?

ABORTION

Since September the Denominational Concerns Task Force of our Beaver Butler Presbytery has been wrestling with these and other issues we face as members of the PCUSA.

Now the Task Force would like to tell you a little bit about our work and the direction we're headed, but mostly we'd like to hear from the people of our congregations.

All Beaver-Butler Presbyterians are invited to an

OPEN FORUM

On Denominational Concerns

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

7:00 p.m.

At the Presbyterian Church of Portersville
1297 Perry Highway (Route 19, 9 miles north of Zelienople)

Please join us for a time of constructive conversation about the future of our denomination and the shape of our life together.

Your RSVP to the Presbytery Office (724-452-7515 or office@beaverbutler.org) will help in our planning. Thanks!

Task Force Members: Alan Adams, Judy Angleberger, Scott Graham, Jim Powers, Dana Opp, Dennis Burnett, Bill Teague, JoAnn McElhaney, Jeff Arnold, Phil Van Bruggen, Gary Westin, Dave Byers

ARE YOU A READER OF THE NEW YORK TIMES?

If you love the *Times* and also have an internet connection, you will appreciate the features of the “New York Times Select” services available free to members of Covenant Church. Just surf on over to: <http://www.nytimes.com/auth/login> and enter the following login values:

member ID = covenantbutler
password = member

You get more from The New York Times, with TimesSelect on NYTimes.com -- content that isn't available anywhere else online -- like top Op-Ed and News Columnists, access to all past stories in the extensive “Archive,” and enhanced multimedia -- as well as new tools to help you access, manage and reference it all.

Make it a habit to visit our Covenant Website often...



now being updated more regularly, with a wider variety of features and links. If you are a “frequent flyer” and appreciate the webpage, drop an email to: covenantupchurch@aol.com and tell us what you like, what you would like to see that isn't there now, and offer a word of encouragement to those who work hard to make the site attractive and useful.

<http://covenantbutler.org>

Commentary on the Readings for the FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Lectionary Cycle C

All the lessons for today affirm the reality and illustrate the remarkable results of being known, claimed, and called by God. God “knew” Jeremiah even before he was “formed . . . in the womb” (Jer. 1:5). Paul’s teaching to the Corinthians about love is grounded in the affirmation that “I have been fully known” (1 Cor. 13:12). The fulfillment of the scripture that Jesus announces in Luke 4:21 involves the claim of God on his life: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” (4:18).

To be known, claimed, called by God means to be equipped “to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine” (Eph. 3:20). It means to be empowered to proclaim God’s word and embody God’s will. Jeremiah, for instance, despite his objections (Jer. 1:6), becomes “a prophet to the nations” (1:5). Amid opposition that is already reflected in Luke 4:21–30, Jesus will proclaim and embody God’s righteousness. God’s gracious claim will even enable the Corinthians to love one another in the seemingly impossible manner described in 1 Cor. 13.

The lessons today offer an opportunity for us to consider God’s claim on us as well. In effect, as is appropriate during the season of Epiphany, we remember our baptisms. We remember that we are known, claimed, called by God. We belong to God. From our mother’s womb, our primary identity is as God’s children. In the kind of world in which we live, our representation of this claim will certainly arouse opposition, as it did for Jeremiah and for Paul and for Jesus. The good news is that a share of God’s Spirit is ours as well, to equip and empower us in every circumstance to live and love in accordance with God’s righteous purposes for us and the world.

SOURCE: Lectionary Resources, PC(USA) Worship Planner (Geneva Press, 1999)

January 28, 2007

"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none."
---William Shakespeare

"You have heard that it was said:
'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray
for those who persecute you."
---Matthew 5:43-44

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson

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