

And thus we read that John says: "Christ was the Lamb which was slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8), and John the Baptist testified that Christ is that "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Wherefore, we quite openly profess and preach that Jesus Christ is our King and High Priest, that holy and blessed one whom all the types of the law and predictions of the prophets prefigured and promised; and that God appointed him beforehand and sent him to us, so that we are not to look for any other.

Now there only remains for each of us to give all glory to Christ, believe in him, and rest in him alone, despising and rejecting all other aids in life.

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE NOISY OFFERING OF LOOSE CHANGE (Last Sunday of the month)

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God be in my Head

John Rutter

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jeremiah 23:1-6 *(Pew Bible p. 686)*

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

THE ANTHEM *O Praise the Lord with Heart and Voice* J. Haydn

THE EPISTLE LESSON Colossians 1:11-20 *(Pew Bible p. 188)*

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

*THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:68-79 *(Pew Bible p. 54)*

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

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE (Hymn Tune #333 Seek Ye First)

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Al-le-lu, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Al-le-lu, alleluia!**

THE SERMON " *Who's The Boss?* " Dr. Swanson

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

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

THE THREE-FOLD AMEN

Robert Lau

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Rejoice, The Lord is King

Robert Lau

*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

Use us, O God of miracles, and the offerings we have brought, to bring life and health and hope to your world. Make us generous and faithful stewards of your mysteries, as we share the bounty which you have granted unto us. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN 447

Lead On, O King Eternal

LANCAHSIRE

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

A Clare Benediction

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

Fugue in C Major

J. S. Bach

*Those who are able, please stand.

GREETINGS TO ALL this day who have come to worship. We want to get to know you, especially if you are a visitor!

Please introduce yourself to others sitting nearby during the passing of the peace. Following the worship, everyone is invited to share a time of coffee, tea and fellowship downstairs in the Assembly Room. (exit at the rear of the sanctuary, go down the stairs and past the Library to the entrance near the Sallman painting of Christ knocking at the door.)

THE FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are given by Chuck Schlicht in honor of his wife, Jeanne Schlicht, who will celebrate her 80th birthday on November 29th.

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

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Grace Sechler.

THE USHERS: Ann Morrison and Grace Sechler

COMMUNITY DINNERS - Volunteers from Faith and Covenant Presbyterian churches will meet this Wednesday, November 28th at 4 p.m. at Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church to help serve the community dinner to those in need of a meal and fellowship.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER will be celebrated next Sunday, December 2nd, the First Sunday of Advent, during the 11 a.m. worship service.

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNION IN DECEMBER



A communion/luncheon for our shut-ins and their caregivers will be held on **Thursday, December 6th at 11:30 a.m.** (All others are of course welcome to attend.)

The half-hour service is for shut-ins who are restricted by mobility, disability or have other health related issues which makes it difficult for them to attend the longer more formal Sunday worship services. A light lunch and fellowship will follow the service.

If you know of someone who can benefit from this service or if you can provide transportation, please see or contact Pastor Jim at the church office.



STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE 2008

Your pledge signifies your commitment to conserve the vital and precious resources of our planet earth and to further God's Kingdom here on earth.

If you have already returned your completed pledge card(s) to Covenant Church, **THANK YOU**. If you haven't, please complete and return your pledge card(s) and help your elected church officers plan the budget for 2008.

You may place your completed pledge card(s) on the offering plate during today's worship service or on any Sunday morning; you may hand it to the treasurer; mail it or drop it off at the office. Extra pledge cards and envelopes are available in the narthex if you have forgotten or misplaced yours.

HELP WANTED: A FEW GOOD MEN!

The Fellowship & Outreach Committee could use a couple of able-bodied men on Saturday, December 1st (beginning at 9:30 am) to help hang the holly boughs on the Sanctuary balcony and to reach some of the higher areas that require decorations. If you can be of assistance, please see Helen Ferguson, chairperson of the Fellowship & Outreach Committee, or call the church office to volunteer.

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

Bill Wilson still hospitalized at Allegheny General, Pgh.
Phyllis Thoma recovering from eye surgery, making progress
Rogelio Guimong Shari Swanson's father in Manila, Phillipines;
hospitalized for tests
Bob and Joan Moore in the nursing home (Concordia at Rebecca)
Mary Elizabeth Goehring . . in the nursing home (Concordia)
Julie and Bud Bruno for improved strength and health (at home)

Celebrations:

Ellie Walchesky successful rehabilitation & travel

Celebrating birthdays:

Olivia Janet Drohan - November 25 (Happy 10th!)
Jeanne Schlicht - November 29 (Happy 80th!)
Nancy Blewett - November 30



Memorial Service

DOROTHY B. HITCHCOCK 1922-2007

A Memorial Service for our dear friend and faithful member, Dorothy Hitchcock, who departed this life on November 15, 2007, will be held in the Sanctuary on

Saturday, December 8 at 11 a.m.

A lunch in the Assembly Room will follow the memorial service. The Reception Committee with Martha Keasey, Chair, will host and help serve the catered lunch by Chef George Schroth.

Memorial donations can be made to Covenant Presbyterian Church.

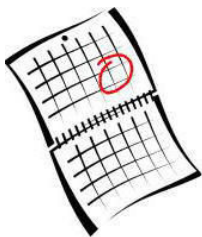
Covenant Cupboard:

December - noodles or tuna

Baskets for your donations are located in the front hallway.

Monetary donations are always appreciated and needed.

Please make checks payable to Covenant Cupboard.



Change of Schedule for Choir Rehearsal:

The Covenant Choir will rehearse in the Sanctuary this Thursday, November 29th from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm (a half-hour earlier). This time schedule will continue through the Thursdays of December.

The Approach of Advent Begins Next Week



Saturday, December 1 at 9:30 am

“Hanging of the Greens”

Decorate the church for Christmas

Sunday, December 2 at 11 am

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Thursday, December 6 at 11:30 am

Special Needs Communion & Luncheon
(Shut-ins, Caregivers & Church Family invited)

Saturday, December 8 at 11 a.m

Memorial Service - Dorothy B. Hitchcock



Remember whose birthday it is! Christmas gift giving must begin with the recognition that Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Christ. When we celebrate a birthday, we give gifts to the person whose birthday it is. Moreover, we are careful to choose what that person expressly wants and needs. Is there any doubt about what Jesus wants us to give him? He pointedly insists that in order to “gift him,” we must find him in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned.

Giving time, skills and money to support ministries working with needy people should be the *beginning points* of gift-giving at Christmas, not the afterthoughts. This season, consider giving a “gift” to the hungry of our Butler community with a donation to the ongoing **Covenant Community Dinner Fund**. It is anticipated that the increased numbers being fed by Covenant and Faith Church volunteers on the 4th Wednesday of each month will continue or grow even more during the winter months. In the last few weeks more than 120 meals have been served at most of the weeknight community kitchens (up from 70 or 80 last summer).

One of the most important gifts you can give this year is a hot meal for a hungry neighbor. (You may use the small offering envelopes in the pews marked “Community Dinner Fund.” Our cost is \$2 per person per month. Your gift of \$25 would feed one hungry person for a whole year at our 4th Wednesday kitchen ministry. Any amount would be helpful!)

The Counter-Cultural Sovereign

From "The Word Engaged: Meditations on the Sunday Scriptures" (Orbis Books, New York (1997), pp. 125-128)

by John Kavanaugh, S. J.
of Saint Louis University

The Feast of Christ the King stands in stark opposition to two contemporary trends in some Christian circles. The first trend is the rejection of honorific titles like "king" or "lord." The second is the proposal that Christ is not pre-eminent as a revelation of God, but merely one among many equal sources of truth and salvation.

The distaste that some Christians have for the notion of kingship mistakes the very nature of Christ's dominion. His is a *total reversal* of the roles usually assigned to royalty and servitude. He refuses to be the master of the world, the mighty monarch, the spiller of blood. His reign completely and totally subverts our notion of kingship and power.

He is the king who serves the other. He is the king who dies for the other. He is the king who is ridiculed, scorned, and mocked. Most insufferable, most repugnant of all, is the fact that he is a powerless sovereign. Dying on his cross-throne, Jesus is thrice taunted for the fact that he does not save himself. "You a savior?" they jeer. "Then save yourself." Soldiers with their sour wine chide, "Aren't you a real king? Save yourself." Even a criminal scolds: "I thought you were supposed to be a Messiah. Prove it."

As opposed to every other king, Christ is unguarded. He disavows the protection of armies. He rejects self-defense. He abjures force. This is a king? No, this is a scandal. This is a stumbling block. Thus, to repress Christ's title of king is to repress the earth-shaking revolution of his realm. The crucified king is also the secret key to Christ's uniqueness. There is none other like him in the fables of human consciousness. No cult or culture could dream it.

In celebrating Christ the King Sunday at the end of the church year, we force ourselves to remember the appalling fact of our salvation. God has spoken, become enfleshed Word, in a way that defies human cleverness. Our hunger for pre-eminence, our desire for power and rule and dominance, which may well motivate our every choice and predilection, is spurned by this king.

Jesus is the sole king who saves fallen humanity from its twisted wish. In this respect he is truly original, truly exceptional, the divine challenge to a world which imagines kingship to be enslavement of the other. How appropriate it is, then, that St. Paul's letter to the Colossians professes Christ's cosmic centrality paradoxically revealed in the triumph of a cross.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creatures. In him everything in heaven and on earth was created, things visible and invisible. . . It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in him and, by means of him, to reconcile everything in his person, everything, I say, both on earth and in the heavens, making peace through the blood of his cross."

**Last Sunday
in the Christian Liturgical Year,
“Christ The King” Sunday
November 25, 2007**

“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.”

Words: Matthew Bridges, 1852,
and Godfrey Thring, 1874.
Music: George Elvey, 1868.

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson

Home Phone: 724.752.8383

Church Office: 724.287.7731

Website: <http://covenantbutler.org>