

Covenant Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

724-287-7731 covenantoffice@zoominternet.net

Worship with us on YouTube: CovenantTV1813



"Village Choir," 1847

By Thomas George Webster (1800-1886),
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

Eastertide V: Choir & Musician Appreciation Day

April 28, 2024 10:50 AM

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

Worship Leader: Elder Ann Morrison

Music Director: Dominico Reyes

Musicians: Quin Coltman, Delaney Hindman, Ben Johnston,

Sir Lars Morrison, Anna O'Malley, Lamont Williams

Broadcast TV Producer: Brian F. Graff, C.P.

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDES FOR MUSIC APPRECIATION DAY

Romance ~ Still SAXOPHONE

Romance in Eb ~ Ostransky TRUMPET

Scaramouche ~ Milhaud SAXOPHONE

Deep River ~ Taylor FLUTE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CALL TO WORSHIP ☩

Pastor: We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,

People: **our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.**

Pastor: We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice,

People: **we bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.**

Pastor: We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.

People: **young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched, lift the new, new songs of faith.**

**OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN (Insert) *All the Music Sung and Played Here*

NETTLETON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION ☩

We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint, Compassionate Heart, when you would take them and toss them aside, spent and useless. You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command—to love—and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts.

Forgive us, Vine Grower. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. May we not get in the way of your Gardener, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who will use the Holy Spirit to bring forth an abundant crop.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: The Holy Spirit abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us in Christ Jesus!

People: **As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others, so that love, hope and joy might touch all people. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

**RESPONSE C54 *To God Be the Glory* MY TRIBUTE

***To God be the glory, To God be the glory,
To God be the glory for the things He has done.
With His blood He has saved me; With His pow'r He has raised me.
To God be the glory for the things He has done.***

**THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you!**

The Word

**ILLUMINATION 240 V.1 & 2 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* ALLELUIA NO. 1

***Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give Praise to his name.***

***1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.***

^HT LESSON Genesis 6:11-22 *Pew Bible P.5*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 22 Hymn 631 *In the Presence of Your People* CELEBRATION

NT LESSON 1 John 4: 7 – 21 *Pew Bible P.991*

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.
People: **Praise be to You, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL LESSON John 15: 1 – 8 *Pew Bible P.878*

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Glory to you, O Christ!**

SERMON INTROIT *A Higher Place ~ Morris* OBOE

MESSAGE *O Captain, My Captain!* PASTOR JOHN

A THANK YOU HYMN featuring *The World's Most Dangerous Choir*
We sing to thank the Chancel Choir & Musicians for their talents.
HYMN 610 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* AZMON

LITANY OF MUSIC APPRECIATION

Leader: Spirit of the Living God, we give thanks for your Word, for it touches us in the melodies and harmonies of life.

People: **You made us to be creative and expressive people, and you have blessed us with the gift of music to give voice to our praise.**

Choir: *We Sing because you have encouraged us to "Sing to the Lord a new song!" You have gifted us with talents to share.*

People: **We sing because it connects us with our heritage and tradition.**

Leader: We sing because it proclaims our faith today.

People: **We sing because there are times, O God, when words alone cannot express what we feel,**

Leader: and especially in times of sorrow, suffering, and loss, your gift of music helps us express the inexpressible.

Choir: *We thank you, O God, for those who have given us the words and music of the hymns and songs which we sing.*

Leader: We offer now our gratitude, appreciation, and love to the men and women of our chancel choir, the instrumentalists who have brightened our sanctuary, our talented pianist and choir director here at Covenant Church. They lead us faithfully in worship each week, inspire us and thrill us with their melody and harmony; they help our spirits soar to the heights of heaven.

People: **Grant them the power of your presence, the sustaining love of your grace, and the joy of being found faithful in your service.**

ALL: **All praise to you, Creator God, for the thrilling message of instrument, hymnody, choral anthem, and solo voice. May our music-making, and our appreciation of all music that is made, be offered in a manner that honors and glorifies you, O God, now and always. Amen.**

THE PASTORAL PRAYER with THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Eucharist

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Praise His Holy Name!* ~ Hampton

Sing till the power of the Lord come down.

Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name! (x2)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me;

*I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.
Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah! Praise His holy name!
Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for ev'ry one and there's a cross for me.
Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah! Praise His holy name!
Holy Jesus, Praise His Name, Oh! Hallelujah!
Praise His Name! Praise His Holy Name, Praise His Name!
Oh, oh, Praise His Holy Name!*

**DOXOLOGY B593 *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* DOXOLOGY 1967
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creature here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. A-men.***

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for this high and holy moment in worship and in life when we have something to give that others need. Take our gifts, our witness, and our lives to benefit all your human family. May your glory, revealed in the resurrected Lord Jesus, be seen in us and shared with everyone, always. Amen.

The Sending

**HYMN 641 *When in Our Music God Is Glorified* ENGLEBERG

**THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE *Grace* ~ Morris OBOE

✠ -- The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon (adapted) are from Lectionary Liturgies for this Sunday, by The Rev. Thom Shuman.

^ -- Genesis 6:11-28 is a non-lectionary reading today.

Wait...Don't Go Yet! All are welcome to stay, socialize and enjoy food with us after the service. Today we have a luncheon in honor of the choir & musicians. For future dates, a host sign-up sheet is in the Narthex outside the office.

*"Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!"*
(Fred Pratt Green, 1972)

Thank You to Our Musicians
Fall Semester 2023 & Spring Semester 2024

V – Vocal I – Instrumental Bold – Regular Chancel Choir Members

Philip Bartley (V, I)	Karen Krenitsky (I)
Mark Boyce (V)	Ione Mathias (V)
Amy Cannard (V)	Lars Morrison (I)
Brett Carrier (V, I)	Anna O'Malley (I)
Natalie Clayburn (V)	Don Rasely (V, I)
Quin Coltman (V, I)	Mary Reefer (V)
Jenna Diem (V)	Dominico Reyes (V, I)
Delaney Hinman (V, I)	Chrystal Sircely (V)
Ben Johnston (V, I)	Chas Tanner (V)
Haven Joseph – Lyon (V)	Noah White (V)
Timothy Little Tran (V)	Lamont Williams (V, I)
	Steven Yealy (V, I)

*"Music is the art of the prophets, the only art that can calm the
agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful
presents God has given us."*
~Martin Luther

We Thank:
The World's Most Dangerous Choir
For Joining us today!

Music in the Biblical Tradition -- A Brief History

Knowledge of the biblical period is mostly from literary references in the Bible and post-biblical sources. Religion and music historian Herbert Lockyer, Jr. writes that "music, both vocal and instrumental, was well cultivated among the Hebrews as well as the New Testament Christians through the centuries." He adds that "a look at the Old Testament reveals how God's ancient people were devoted to the study and practice of music, which holds a unique place in the historical and prophetic books, as well as the Psalter."

The music of religious ritual was first used by King David, and, according to the *Larousse Encyclopedia of Music*, he is credited with confirming the men of the Tribe of Levi as the "custodians of the music of the divine service." Historian Irene Hesk notes that of all the books of the Old Testament, the 150 Psalms ascribed to King David have served as "the bedrock of Judeo-Christian hymnology," concluding that "no other poetry has been set to music more often in Western civilization."

Archaeological and written data have demonstrated clearly that music was an integral part of daily life in ancient Israel/Palestine. Figurines and iconographic depictions show that people played chordophones and frame drums, and that the human voice was essential as women and men sang love songs along with laments for the deceased. Data also reveals outdoor scenes of music and dancing in sometimes prophetic frenzies, often with carefully orchestrated and choreographed musicians and singers within specially built structures (auditoriums).

According to ancient music historian Theodore Burgh, "If we were able to step into the . . . biblical period, we would find a culture filled with music where people enjoyed music in their daily lives." "Such music was capable of expressing joy and sorrow, hope and fear, faith and doubt. In fact, every shade and quality of sentiment are found in the wealth of songs and psalms and in the diverse melodies of the people."

Egypt was among the oldest cultures of the Near East and had a highly developed musical culture dating back to around 3000 BC. On various pieces of sculpture there are reliefs of harpists and flutists taking part in religious ceremonies and social entertainments. A number of instruments have been identified as being used in Egypt, including the lyre (a type of harp), an oboe-like instrument, various drums from Asia, the lute and the sistrum (rattle).

Although records are minimal, it is known that between 3000 and 2300 BC organized temple music with singers also existed in Sumer and Babylonia, the oldest cultural groups in Mesopotamia. Excavations have uncovered several musical instruments, including harps, lutes, double oboes, and a few others.

Because of the political interrelations between the Hebrews and the Semitic nations of Babylonia, Assyria, and the Hittite empire, there were similarities between the Hebrew music of the Judean people and the others. Jewish music began in the early years of tribal life, and the "references to music in the Bible are numerous," writes Ulrich. After the Hebrews established a kingdom in Israel, their musical activities increased substantially.

Music historian Abraham Schwadron writes, "probably the most important musical contribution of the ancient Hebrews was the elevation of the status of liturgical music in union with ritual ceremonies." He cites the "high degree of musical liturgy" in accounts of King Solomon's Temple, such as the 24 choral groups consisting of 288 musicians which took part in 21 weekly services.

Although the original music of the Psalms (which were chanted) is often thought to be lost, the Masoretic text of the Hebrew Bible contains cantillation marks indicating a melodic line for the words. Some authorities now argue that these cantillation marks date from temple times and record the music sung in the temple.

Then, as now, music sets our souls free to express the inexpressible – our praise and adoration of God, to whom all glory is due.

Lighthouse Item of the Month: **MAY = Pasta**

Donations: Other than the offering plate

*Mail check to 107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001-2429

*Credit/Debit in church office

*Coming soon: A new online donation system.

If you currently have a recurring donation on Vanco Payments either through our website or the phone app, please cancel the recurring payment, until we have a new system online. Thank You!

A Note from the Church Administrator: "Thank You to those who remembered me on Administrative Professionals Day this past Wednesday. Your kindness is greatly appreciated." ~Brian

Next Week at Covenant:

May 5

Eastertide VI: Sacrament of Holy Communion

9:50 AM Seeker's Class with Prayer Circle

11:00 AM Worship

12:10 PM Fellowship Hour w/ Elaine Nucci

Reminder: Sundays - The **RED** door is open until 10:50 AM, and again after the service; now thru Sept 8.

Prayer Concerns: If you have a prayer request, please contact the Prayer Cordon: Virginia Lokovich 724-287-3920, Jane Hall 724-287-5410, Pastor John 412-779-6148, or covenantoffice@zoominternet.net

Please pray for:

Monica, neighbor of Bill & Nancy Rice, for treatment and relief from constant pain,

Virginia Lokovich and family for God's abiding presence and comfort;

Rosemary Latella, Elaine Nucci's godmother, of Utica, NY, recovering from a broken pelvis;

Art Hagg, nephew-in-law of Betty Butler, is doing well after foot surgery;

David Johnston, related to Betty Butler, is being treated for broken vertebrae in his back;

Luanne and Family, known to Linda Peters, for God's abiding presence and comfort;

Lauren Loebell, awaiting results from testing for body pain & discomfort;

Service-related workers, known to Sir Lars, on mission-related efforts in the Ukraine;

Ann Morrison, for discernment and direction for her next steps in life & work;

Sarah Jane Milliron, daughter of Lars and Ann Morrison for discernment in work-related concerns;

Kathy, friend of Dr. John & Mary Reefer, coming to grips with quadriplegia as a result of a car accident last fall;

Callie, Audrey Carlson's granddaughter, is seeking medical benefit support for a needed MRI procedure as further testing for her sleep disorder;

Mason Martin, Karns City high football player, is due for release to home care and outpatient rehabbing at the Lemieux Sports Complex sometime next week;

Pam Patterson, at Concordia at Cabot.

We also pray for the church in every place; for leaders and people in every land, but especially in our country; for peace & justice throughout the world; for all those who hunger & thirst; for all those who are ailing & in need of healing; for those we have in our hearts today... **God of grace, hear our prayers.**

Psalm 22: 25 - 31

L L A H S R Y O U R B E F O R E
D E L I V E R A N C E S F L D A
Y N H M G B R T H O S E O O U R
E D A I R M A V E M S M R R S T
T E S A E E B B E N Y O E D T H
N I S L A M O T O L D C V F R I
O F M C T E U I S W U S E E D M
I S L O H R T N G O E N R A O D
T I A R E A O N W I L L B R W O
A T S P R I I S L E E P F O N N
G A P E T Y T I R E T S O P R E
E S N A A R M A Y F U T U R E N
R E N S A A K E E S I A R P A Y
G L N E F P E O P L E V O W S T
N U H N O I N I M O D T H A T U
O R O O P I H S R O W H O V E R
C B E L O N G S S I N D E E D N

Word List

CONGREGATION GENERATIONS DELIVERANCE SATISFIED POSTERITY REMEMBER
PROCLAIM FAMILIES DOMINION WORSHIP NATIONS FOREVER BELONGS
UNBORN SAYING PSALMS PRAISE PEOPLE INDEED HEARTS FUTURE BEFORE
THOSE SLEEP SHALL SERVE RULES GREAT EARTH COMES ABOUT YOUR
WILL VOWS TURN TOLD THAT SEEK POOR OVER LORD FROM FEAR
ENDS DUST DOWN DONE YET WHO THE PAY MAY HIS HIM HAS BOW
AND MY GO