

## **Covenant United Presbyterian Church**

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001    724-287-7731    [covenantoffice@zoominternet.net](mailto:covenantoffice@zoominternet.net)

Worship with us on YouTube: CovenantTV1813



Front Door of Our Lady of the Good Voyage Church, Gloucester, Massachusetts ☩

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### **Baptism of the Lord**

**January 12, 2025, 11:00 AM**

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

Worship Leader: Dorothy Wallace

Music Director: Dominico Reyes

TV Director: Rev. Bob Mathias

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Musician: Lars Morrison

## ~ Order of Worship~

\*\* = Please stand, as able.

### The Gathering

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O For the Wings of a Dove* ~ Mendelssohn

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Holy Triune God, author of community, come baptize us.  
People: **Remind us what it means to belong to one another.**  
Pastor: God who tears the heavens open, come baptize us.  
People: **Reveal to us your power that ushers in new realms.**  
Pastor: God who calls us beloved, come baptize us.  
People: **Declare to us your great delight and hold us in your pleasure.**  
Pastor: God of vulnerability, come baptize us.  
People: **Welcome us into the paradox of strength that comes from weakness.**  
Pastor: Together, let us remember this day.  
People: **In the Creator's love we are held, into Christ's body we are baptized,  
and by the Spirit's power, we are claimed.**  
All: **All glory to God. Amen!**

#### \*\*OPENING PRAYER

\*\*HYMN 482

*Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

#### INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**In the waters of baptism, O God, you have cleansed us and claimed us. Forgive us for refusing your grace and rejecting your name. We have followed our own paths, and they have led us far from you.**

**Help us to live into our baptisms, to trust that all we need is in you, for you have marked us as your own, loving us without limit. Wash us with your love again, that with clean hearts we may go in the way of Jesus. Amen.**

#### A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: The love of God flows ceaselessly. The mercy of God never ends.  
Announce aloud the good news of the gospel:  
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

\*\*CONFESSION RESPONSE 581 *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.***

\*\*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness shall meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you!**

## The Word

\*\*ILLUMINATION 459 v.1 *O Word of God Incarnate* MUNICH

***O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.***

HT LESSON Isaiah 43: 1 – 7 *Pew Bible P.585-586*

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

PSALM 29 HYMN 259 *The God of Heaven* GLORY

NT LESSON Acts 8: 14 – 17 *Pew Bible P.892*

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

\*\*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 3: 15 – 17, 21 – 22 *Pew Bible P.834*

Pastor: The Gospel of Our Lord. People: **Glory to You, O Christ!**

\*\*CANTICLE 288 *Spirit of the Living God* LIVING GOD

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (x2)  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

MESSAGE *Claimed and Called* PASTOR JOHN

RESPONSE 601 *Amen* DANISH AMEN

***Amen, Amen. A—men.***

\*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Nicene Creed (Ecumenical)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Eucharist

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, & GIFTS

\*\*DOXOLOGY 606                      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*                      OLD HUNDREDTH  
*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. Amen.*

\*\*THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrant:     The Lord be with you.

People:        **And also with you.**

Celebrant:     Lift up your hearts.

People:        **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant:     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People:        **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant:     Blessed are you, O Lord our God: You are our creator and redeemer.  
Through the water you deliver us and claim us as your beloved, your own.  
Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the  
heavenly choir:

Congregation: Old 269 *Holy, Holy, Holy*                      SETTING THREE  
*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

Celebrant: Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: At his baptism by John in the Jordan, you poured out your Holy Spirit upon Jesus and revealed him to be your beloved Son.  
Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast -- Great is the mystery of faith:  
All: **Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.**  
Celebrant: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Reshape our lives by your living Word and renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may follow you more faithfully.  
Through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever.  
People: **Amen.**  
Celebrant: And now, let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom as our Lord has taught us:

#### 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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**\*\*THE COMMUNION** *Come Forward*

**\*\*THE RESPONSE AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

HYMN 535 *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

BLESS THE LORD

Celebrant: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: **And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Celebrant: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: **And forget not all God's benefits.**

Celebrant: Let us pray:

All: **We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have fed us with your mercy and poured out your Spirit in this place. Continue to nourish and fill us each day, that we may live as your beloved people; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Sending

**\*\*HYMN 490**

*Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*

BEACH SPRING

\*\*THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\*\*POSTLUDE

*Vivace ~ Loeillet*

✦ -- **The Church of Our Lady of the Good Voyage is a Portuguese Roman Catholic Church**, built in the 1800s for the large influx of Portuguese seafarers from the Azores, into the sea-fishing community of Gloucester, Massachusetts, in the heart of Cape Ann, north of Boston. The Virgin Mary is the patron saint of sailors. Pastor John and Elaine visited this church on their honeymoon nearly fifteen years ago. What attracted them to the



church was the large scallop shell (a featured symbol in their wedding) over the front door (above, right)! The scallop shell is of particular importance as a symbol of the Baptism of Christ and the journey of the baptized in the life of faith. The Way of St. James, also known as the El Camino de Santiago (where the Apostle's body is supposedly buried) is a Christian pilgrimage that transveres Portugal and Spain. This pilgrimage way is symbolized by a scallop shell (on left and right) from place to place!



Wait, Don't Go Yet! Join us for a light snack & conversation at the round Sanctuary tables. Thank you to Ione Mathias for providing today's snack!

Donations: Other than the offering plate... **Web:** [www.covenantbutler.org](http://www.covenantbutler.org) click green donate button at top of page; **Smartphone:** Tithley App, available in Play Store or Apple Store; **Credit/Debit:** in the church office; **Mail Check:** 107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001-2429

Celebration: January 12 Bob Mathias' Birthday!



Coming Up:

Jan 15 Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Jan 19 Noisy Offering of Loose Change

Feb 2 Annual Congregational Meeting 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

Lighthouse Item of the Month: Cereal



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](mailto:covenantoffice@zoominternet.net)

Please Pray for:

**Jane Faulkner**, sister of Ann Morrison, has lost her home in Pacific Palisades fire in California.

**Sheila**, Gina Loebell's cousin, in a Colorado hospital in critical condition.

**Mary Reefer**, for continued healing after recent knee surgery.

**Andrew (and his caregiver, wife, Kim)**, friends of the Rices; continuing healing for Andrew after a post-operative infection following ankle replacement surgery.

**Virginia Lokovich**, has struggles with her eyes and is receiving care.

**Wendy White**, friend of Elaine Nucci and Pastor John, recovering from recent knee surgery in Asheville, NC.

**Bonnie Wilson**, friend of Lone Mathias, in chemo treatment for the new case of cancer in her jaw.

**Dee Hall**, known to the Mathias', is doing well despite a continuing battle with cancer.

**Ken Hricz**, friend of Pastor John & Elaine, starting experimental treatment for Parkinsons this week through the Cleveland Clinic.

**Sharon Anderson**, friend of Nancy Rice, is feeling stronger as she meets with doctors regarding next steps for treatment of cancer.

**Pam Patterson**, at Concordia Cabot.

**All People struggling** as a result of the California wildfires or the recent snowstorms across the country.

## Acts 8: 14 – 17

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

### Word List

JERUSALEM RECEIVED BAPTIZED APOSTLES ACCEPTED SAMARIA SPIRIT PRAYED  
THEIR PETER MIGHT JESUS HEARD HANDS WORD WHEN WENT UPON THEY  
THEN THEM THAT SENT ONLY NRSV NAME LORD LAID JOHN HOLY DOWN  
COME BEEN ACTS YET TWO NOW NOT HAD GOD FOR ANY IN

*(Acts 8:14-17) Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. (15) The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (16) (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). (17) Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (NRSV)*