

Covenant United Presbyterian Church



HOPE

Covenant United Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001 724-287-7731 covenantoffice@zoominternet.net

Worship with us on YouTube: CovenantTV1813

Advent I: Hope December 1, 2024 11:00 AM

Guest Pastor: Brian F Graff, C.P.

TV Director: Rev. Bob Mathias

Worship Leader: Nancy Rice

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Music Director: Dominico Reyes

TV Assistant: David K Loebell

Guest Musician: Lamont Williams

Vocals: Chancel Choir

~ Order of Worship~

** = Please stand, as able.

The Gathering

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

A CALLING TO WORSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT

People Look East ~ Farjeon/Shaw

People look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.

People look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

**OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE ~ The Candle of Hope

Members of the Chancel Choir

God's promise of hope is for all people;

Together, we anticipate the day of his coming.

Choir 1: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. Even as we celebrate the birth of our Lord in Bethlehem so long ago, we are preparing ourselves for the return of our Lord Jesus as he comes again in glory! The first candle calls us to hope!

Choir 2: Hear this blessing from Apostle Paul's Letter to the Romans: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Let the light of this one candle shine brightly in our lives, reminding us to live in hope! And let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Congregation: **Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

VENI EMMANUEL

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The chances we have to be more compassionate; the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend; the good fortune we could give to those who have so little. The signs are all around us, Good and Upright God, of how we fail to live as your people.

Do not meditate on our bungling ways, God of steadfast love, but remember the mercy of Your heart. That mercy which forgives us; that mercy which makes us whole; and especially, that living mercy who came down one night so long ago, Jesus the Advent of our redemption. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Raise your heads, children of God! In the bleak mid-winter of our lives, our redemption draws near. In the springtime of our doubts, the kingdom of God approaches.

People: **Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us is the salvation promised so long ago. 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: May the Hope of Advent be yours all through the year. The peace of our Lord
Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you!**

The Word

**ILLUMINATION B14 v.1 *Savior of the Nations, Come* NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

***Savior of the nations come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.***

HT LESSON Jeremiah 33: 14 – 16

Pew Bible P.645

Leader: This, is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SCRIPTURE HYMN 347 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

NT LESSON 1 Thessalonians 3: 9 – 13

Pew Bible P.960

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

People: **Praise be to You, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL LESSON Luke 21: 25 – 36

Pew Bible P.857

Pastor: The Gospel of Our Lord.

People: **Glory to You, O Christ!**

**CANTICLE 84 v.1 *Creator of the Stars at Night*

CONDITUR ALME SIDERUM

***Creator of the stars at night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray to you, hear us when we call.***

MESSAGE

Hope for the Day to Come

PASTOR BRIAN

SERMON RESPONSE 108 v.1 *Of the Father's Love Begotten* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

***Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending be,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore. Amen.***

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Birth of Our Savior

During Advent we will affirm our faith via song.

HYMN 129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN' ROS'

THE PASTORAL PRAYER with THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy...

People: ...**come and save your people.**

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

Is Your Heart Prepared for a King? ~ Lau

In the quiet of the night, or in morning's early light,

Is your heart prepared for a king?

Will you hear an angel sing? Will your own hosannas ring?

Is your heart prepared for a king?

Wait! Watch!

Pray for the one who brings hope to a wearied earth.

Wait! Watch!

Pray for the one who brings peace, who brings peace by his birth.

Can you see the shining star? Does it call you from a far?

Is your heart prepared for a king?

(Will you watch?) (Will you pray?)

Is the babe of whom we sing born to be our God and King?

Is your heart prepared, Is your heart prepared,

Is your heart prepared for a king?

**DOXOLOGY 144 v.4

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

***What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.***

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you, God of hope, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.

The Sending

**HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

**THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**CHORAL RESPONSE

While We are Waiting, Come ~ Cloninger/Cason
While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.

**POSTLUDE

Wait, Don't Go Yet! Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to *Ann & Lars Morrison* for hosting today.

Donations: Other than the offering plate... **Web:** 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

Christmas on Campus Calendar:

Dec 4 7:00 PM Joint Advent Kick-Off Worship

Dec 9, 16, 23 Advent Reflections with Pastor John & Pastor Carmen

Dec 24 3:30 – 3:52 PM The Preludes of Christmas

Dec 24 4:00 PM "Come Emmanuel" Worship Service w/ Communion & Candle-light finale.

Dec 24 7:00 PM Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship at Trinity PC

Dec 29 Casual Carols Worship

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:

The Family of Eva Maria Barr, upon her passing. Eva Maria was Commissioned Pastor to Service Church in Aliquippa.

Sarah Jane Milliron, daughter of Lars and Ann Morrison, with health concerns.

Jennifer Divers, daughter of Connie (and Don) Swartzfeger, facing surgery.

Bonnie Wilson, friend of Lone Mathias, has been diagnosed with another cancer in her jaw.

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

Sarah, a volunteer (with special needs) at the National Aviary known to Elaine Nucci, is still in ICU after recent brain surgeries her family reports ups and downs; your continued prayers are welcome.

Ken Hricz, friend of Pastor John & Elaine, facing surgery this week at Cleveland Clinic.

Sharon Anderson, friend of Nancy Rice, as she makes decisions regarding next steps for treatment of cancer.

Pam Patterson, at Concordia Cabot.

Students returning from Break and Folks traveling over the river, (over the country!) and through the woods returning from family visits for Thanksgiving.



First Sunday *of* **Advent**

December 1, 2024

Night draws closer, days grow shorter;

Darkness seems to hem us in.

But the light of Christ is coming,

He will save us from our sin.

So in this first week of Advent,

We will spark one candle's flame.

We remember that first Christmas,

When the lowly Christ child came.

--Rev. Elizabeth Wallace

"Candle Song"

Psalm 25: 1 - 10

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

Word List

TRANSGRESSIONS FAITHFULNESS TREACHEROUS THEREFORE STEADFAST SALVATION INSTRUCTS
ACCORDING WANTONLY REMEMBER GOODNESS COVENANT UPRIGHT TEACHES SINNERS MINDFUL
ENEMIES DECREES ASHAMED PSALMS HUMBLE YOUTH TRUTH TRUST THOSE PATHS MERCY
LEADS EXULT YOUR WHAT WAYS WAIT THEY THEM SOUL SINS SAKE OVER NRSV MAKE LOVE
LORD LONG LIFT KNOW KEEP HAVE FROM BEEN WHO PUT OLD LET HIS GOD DAY ARE
AND ALL MY

(Psalms 25:1-10) To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (2) O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. (3) Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. (4) Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. (5) Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. (6) Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. (7) Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! (8) Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. (9) He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. (10) All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

(NRSV)