

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**



**Christ the King Sunday**

**November 26, 2017**

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The Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor  
Pastor's Phone: 724-752-8383 / 724-712-1407  
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**Order of Service for Worship**

**November 26, 2017**

Eleven O'clock, A.M.

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Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor  
Organist/Music Director: Beverly Antis  
Liturgist of the Month: Ann Morrison

**THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE ~ ALL ARE WELCOME HERE !**

Even as the world seeks to judge or divide us according to our economic, racial and ethnic groups, ages, gender, abilities, preferences, politics and theological positions, we believe that in Christ there should be no such division.

Our congregation is strengthened through difference and diversity, and in the name of our Lord, we welcome all who come seeking refuge and healing from condemnation, prejudice and discrimination.

PRELUDE                      *Come, Thou Almighty King*                      Lani Smith

CHORAL INTROIT            *I Will Worship the Lord*                      John Rutter

*I will worship the Lord all the days of my life;  
I will tell of his glory and will show forth his praise;  
I will sing and rejoice, for the Lord is my stronghold.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

—John Rutter

\*OPENING HYMN # 142

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*                      CORONATION

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PSALM OF THE DAY        Psalm 100: 1-5                      (*Pew Bible OT p. 481*)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**O God of the past, God of the present and God of the future; God of the covenant, faithful and true: have mercy upon us as we make our confession. The afflicted await good tidings; the brokenhearted long to have their wounds healed; the captives still yearn for freedom, and those who mourn remain to be comforted; yet we have turned a deaf ear and a blind eye. We have gone along with warfare, prejudice and greed.**

**Forgive us for failing to accomplish your peace and for postponing the establishment of your kingdom here on earth. Strengthen our resolve to follow Christ's call to ministries of justice and love. Renew us, restore us and make us worthy to serve in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our King. Amen.**

A FEW MOMENTS FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone!

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

--United Church of Canada

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and to serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God!**

\*GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

NOISY OFFERING OF LOOSE CHANGE (Last Sunday of each month)

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Bless the Lord, O My Soul* Robert Lau

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.*

*Bless the Lord, my soul.* —Psalm 103:1

FIRST LESSON Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 (*Pew Bible OT p. 702*)

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON Ephesians 1: 15-23 (*Pew Bible NT p. 949*)

Liturgist: Here ends the second lesson.

All: **Praise be to you, O Lord.**

\*GOSPEL READING Matthew 25: 31-46 (*Pew Bible NT p. 807*)

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: **Glory to You, O Christ.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE ~ Hymn #333

*Seek Ye First* LAFFERTY

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you.**

**Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.**

**Allelu, alleluia!**

SERMON

“*KING OF KINGS*”

Pastor Jim

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.**

CHORAL AMEN

*Three-fold Amen*

Beverly Antis

HYMN # 220

*All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

OLD HUNDREDTH

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Rejoice, The Lord is King*

Robert Lau

*Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph ever more.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love  
who purged our sins and took the royal seat above.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*God's kingdom cannot fail, Christ rules o'er earth and heaven.  
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the judge, shall come  
to glorify the saints for their eternal home.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

—Charles Wesley

\*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. Amen.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O God, accept our offerings, and use us to bring life and  
health and hope to your world. Make us generous and  
faithful stewards of your mysteries, doing your will and  
proclaiming your word; through Christ we pray. Amen.**

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN # 151

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DIADEMATA

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*May God Bless and Keep You* Robert Wetzler

*May God bless and keep you  
till we meet again; meet again.*

\*A TIME OF SILENCE

\*CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor: Friends, by the most generous grace of God  
we have been forgiven, healed and made whole.  
Go now, giving witness to God's love by sharing it  
with others, as we work for and witness to  
the power of the Holy Spirit to make all things new.  
As sisters and brothers of Christ sent into the world...  
Let us go in peace, and serve the Lord !

People: **Thanks be to God!**

\*POSTLUDE

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Wilbur Held

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\* Those who are able, please stand

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY BY *Nancy & David Blewett.*

**JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME !**



Immediately following worship each Sunday... please stay for conversation (and food!) downstairs in the Assembly Room.

Hosting Today: *Mother Hubbard's Cupboard!*



**The Flowers in the Sanctuary**

are provided by  
*Sue Ellen Reese & Marilyn Ruff*

IN MEMORY OF:

***Harold and Louise Kurtz's***  
*November 28<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary*

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS**

It's not too late  
to order your poinsettia(s)!



***A form for Christmas Flowers is enclosed.***

*Please make checks payable to:  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
marked "Flower Fund" in the memo*

*A complete list of donors will be published in the Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols bulletin, on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.*



***Decorating the Church for Christmas***

**This Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
@ 9:00 am ~ Sanctuary**

*Connie Brown could use several volunteers  
to help decorate the Sanctuary!*

*Please consider volunteering your time and talent!*



## *Celebrating Our Heritage*

You will find installment #30 of the book “*Through Succeeding Years*” - an historical account of the history of First Presbyterian Church from 1813-1938 - in this morning’s bulletin. Future installments will be forthcoming. (*Back issues are available in the narthex.*)

### **PLEDGE CARD 2018 REMINDER**

If you have not had an opportunity to return your 2018 pledge card, extra cards are available in the narthex.



Please place your completed pledge card in the envelope provided and place it on this morning’s offering plate or mail it to the church.

*If you have already submitted your completed pledge card for 2018 ... THANK YOU!*

### **\$\$ Financial Snapshot ~ OCTOBER 2017 \$\$**

Total Budgeted Expenses	\$ 19,546
Budgeted Income from All Sources	\$ 13,175
Taken from Reserve Funds to meet expenses	\$ 6,370



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**Next Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 11AM**

Sacrament of Communion ~ “*come forward*”

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

~ COVENANT CHOIR MEN ~



## ARTISAN MARKETPLACE TO CLOSE DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>

*EVERYTHING MUST GO – Great  
Discounts Available!*

***Dear Loyal Supporters of Artisan Marketplace,***

We are saddened to inform you that the PW (Presbyterian Women) upon recommendation of the SERRV Team will be ending its SERRV mission focus. Artisan Marketplace shop and church/community sales will be closing December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The shop will be having an “Everything Must Go” Sale in December. Great discounts on Christmas décor, housewares, Divine chocolate, scarves, jewelry and baskets.

**The “Everything Must Go” Sale  
runs from December 4<sup>th</sup> – December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Each week in December you receive a bigger discount:

Week 1	Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup> – Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	10% discount on everything
Week 2	Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup> – Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup>	15% discount on everything
Week 3	Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup> – Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	20% discount on everything

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**The Artisan Marketplace shop is located  
at 134-B South Main St in Zelienople, PA**

**SHOP HOURS:**

Monday through Thursday from 9:30AM – 4:00PM  
Saturday 10:00AM – 2:00PM

*(\*Volunteers available on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday for your shopping convenience.)*

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**Prayer Concerns**

**Diane Dancik** ~ friend of Mary Reefer who has been diagnosed with cancer which has spread to her liver and bowels

**Donna Hobaugh** ~ keep her in prayer; Donna has Alzheimers and lives at 100 Newhaven Lane.

Note her NEW ROOM ADDRESS: **Rm. 6-B**

**Allen Kitchen** (husband of Rev. Mary Kitchen) ~ now faces surgery at Cleveland Clinic on the 11<sup>th</sup> of next month.

Others:

**Clyde Hilliard** (Betty Butler's 91 yr. old brother),  
**Ray Blaine, Pat Foringer, Bill & Jennie Jamieson,**  
**Rose Curry, Ruth Lugibihl**

PRAYER CORDON: Tuesdays at 12 noon in the Church Library.  
To request prayer, contact Virginia at 724-287-3920.

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*Happy Birthday!*

**Nancy Blewett** (November 30)

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#### **New Email Address**

Please make a note in your personal church directory of the new email address for:

*Gina Loebell:*  
[gloebell@yahoo.com](mailto:gloebell@yahoo.com)

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### **Background of Christ the King Sunday**

This is a medieval feast which uses the metaphor of "king" -- a powerful one in those days -- to describe the role of Jesus. Today the implications of kingship are harder for us to comprehend, though our fascination with the British royalty suggests that we still like royal families -- even though we don't quite understand the particulars inherent in royal leadership.

In reality, the kingdom which Jesus preached was the kingdom of his Father in heaven, a kingdom of forgiving love with no royal trappings at all, a kingdom which had always been there but which now (through Jesus) was beginning to be recognized for the first time.

Christ announces a Kingdom which is *coming*, but in some sense is *already here*. We pray "Come, Lord Jesus, Come!" believing that we must also work here and now to build up the kingdom of Christ on earth as we wait for his return.