

Covenant United Presbyterian Church

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Worship with us on [YouTube.com/@CovenantTV1813](https://www.youtube.com/@CovenantTV1813)



Christ with the Peasants (AKA The Mealtime Prayer), By Fritz von Uhde, 1887 ✠
Oil on Panel, Musee D'Orsay, Paris, France

Sunday, September 6, 2026 – Labor Day Weekend 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert
Worship Leader: Holiday Team

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.
Musician: Melanie Rodgers

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Psalm 149:1-5

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

People: **Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.**

Pastor: Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

People: **For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory.**

Pastor: Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy!

People: **Yes, let us worship God!**

**OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 630

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADERS' HYMN

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Beautiful Savior, you have made your law clear: Love. Love one another. Owe one another nothing but love. Do no wrong to a neighbor. But we have not mastered what it is to love. We have fallen short, causing harm to others through careless action and thoughtless lack of action.

Forgive us. Teach us how to love more fully, more perfectly, as generously as you love, following your law and fulfilling your will.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Christ does not judge us harshly, but forgives all our sin and leads us into new life.

People: **Alleluia! We will not take this forgiveness for granted, but will let it transform how we live and love-- Amen.**

****RESPONSE K9** *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI (Meineke)

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: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. To this peace we were called as members of a single body. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

The Word

****ILLUMINATION** *Lord, Let Thy Word Illumine Us* ST. AGNES

Lord, let Thy Word illumine us with truth and love divine; and make us faithful to the Christ, “til we are wholly Thine.

HT LESSON Exodus 12: 1 – 14 *Pew Bible P.51*

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

PSALM 149 HYMN 550 *Give Praise to the Lord* LAUDATE DOMINUM

NT LESSON Romans 13: 8 – 14 *Pew Bible P.923*

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

****GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 18: 15 – 20 *Pew Bible P.799*

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

CANTICLE 583 *Glory to God* GLORIA (Taizé)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

MESSAGE *Living Sacraments* PASTOR JOHN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Nicene Creed*

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 of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, 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 at 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 worshiped 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 717

For the Life That You Have Given

PLEADING SAVIOR

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,

with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:

here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;

give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

THE INVITATION TO THE 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:
We remember your mercy and give thanks for your grace.
You take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but call everyone to turn to your way and live.
Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Congregation:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Hymn 552)

LAND OF REST

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, hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant:

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:
Jesus calls us to forgive one another and be reconciled; he comes to us with peace, and listens to our prayers.
Whenever we gather in his name, Jesus is with us.
Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast. Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All:

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

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.

Show us how to put on the Lord Jesus Christ—to wear the grace of our baptism like a garment of light. Fill our hearts with the love that fulfills your law, so that day-by-day, we may be living sacraments of you!

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: **God of glory, in this holy feast you have made us one with Christ and with that great multitude of the faithful—those who hunger and thirst no more and worship night and day in your temple.**

Lead us in the paths of righteousness and guide us to the springs of the water of life, until we join the choir of the redeemed, singing: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sending

**HYMN 529 *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* UNION SEMINARY

**THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE

✠-- About the cover art: Art historian, Nigel Halladay, in an ArtWay visual meditation, provides an important context for this painting by Fritz von Uhde (German, 1848-1911):

Nineteenth-century art struggled with biblical narratives, because the Enlightenment drove artists towards realism and made symbolism tricky. . . Von Uhde has a different way of uniting realism and symbolism: an obviously unreal Jesus – straight out of the History of Art with blue robe, bare feet and halo – walks into a rigorously unglamorous realistic setting of a peasant cottage. And yet, to the eyes of faith, this is a painting of something entirely real: Jesus is present with us in the daily life of our homes. . . [An alternate] title of the painting is “The Mealtime Prayer”: but this is more than giving thanks for our food. This is a reminder that Jesus really is with us, in our homes, at our mealtimes and in the unexciting day-to-day tasks of daily life. Our daily work [on this Labor Day Weekend remembrance] has meaning and purpose, because, as we welcome him into our lives and homes, he is with us, provides for us and works through us.

Though Uhde was at first most comfortable painting in classical Dutch light and shadow, he spent time in France and later in his life adopted impressionism in his work and like the movement often worked en-plein-air (outside). At the time of his death, he was known as Germany’s leading impressionist. In this painting both Dutch chiaroscuro (light and shadow) and French impressionism can be seen.

Church Notices:

Wait! Don't Go Yet! Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to *Mother Hubbard's Snack Cupboard* for hosting today!

Worship Accompanists Needed! Sept 13, 20, 27; Oct 4; Nov 15
Piano, Organ, Any Instrument OK! See Church Administrator ASAP.

Mission – Light house Item of the Month for September is Canned Chicken & Tuna; Boxed Beef/Chicken Broth

Celebrations

Sept 8 Amy Cannard's Birthday! (65)
Sept 12 Dorothy Wallace's Birthday!

September 13 Welcoming Sunday

Fall Choir Semester Starts Come join us in praising the Lord!
Pot-Luck Luncheon after Worship. Bring a dish!

September 26 Butler Fall Festival

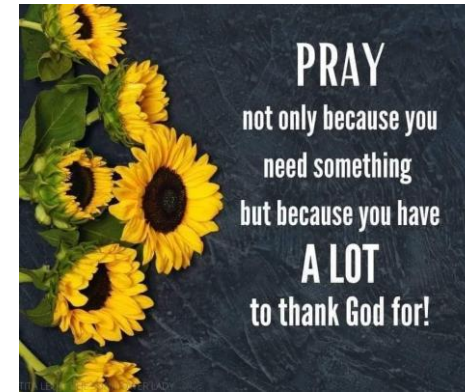
11:00 AM – 6:00 PM - Main Street Downtown Butler

Come work the campus booth in front of the old Dollar General.
The campus will provide 4 nice gift baskets to raffle & cookies to sale.
Set-up & Tear-down help will be needed!

September 19 "Young Washington"

7:00 PM Bring a snack for the table to share

Part of our **America 250 Film Series** from Angel Studios



Prayer List

For our neighbors in the world who have been displaced by massive mudslides, earthquakes, fires, and flooding and for all who respond to these disaster with aid, relief, and expertise;

John Pritchard, in a rehab center in Lutz, Florida;

John & Pat, friends of Bill & Nancy Rice, John diagnosed with pancreatic cancer;

Pam White, a church neighbor, is in the hospital suffering from a broken wrist and poor health in general;

Jane Faulkner, Ann Morrison's sister in CA, fights recalcitrance in FEMA processing her housing needs & requests -- pray for cooperation from FEMA Sr. staff. . . Jane's persistent lung-related illness (MAC) may be triggered by her current living situation in Sebastopol, CA; **Scotty McAliley**, Ann's cousin in Marietta, Georgia, continues bi-weekly chemo-therapy for the remainder of her life.