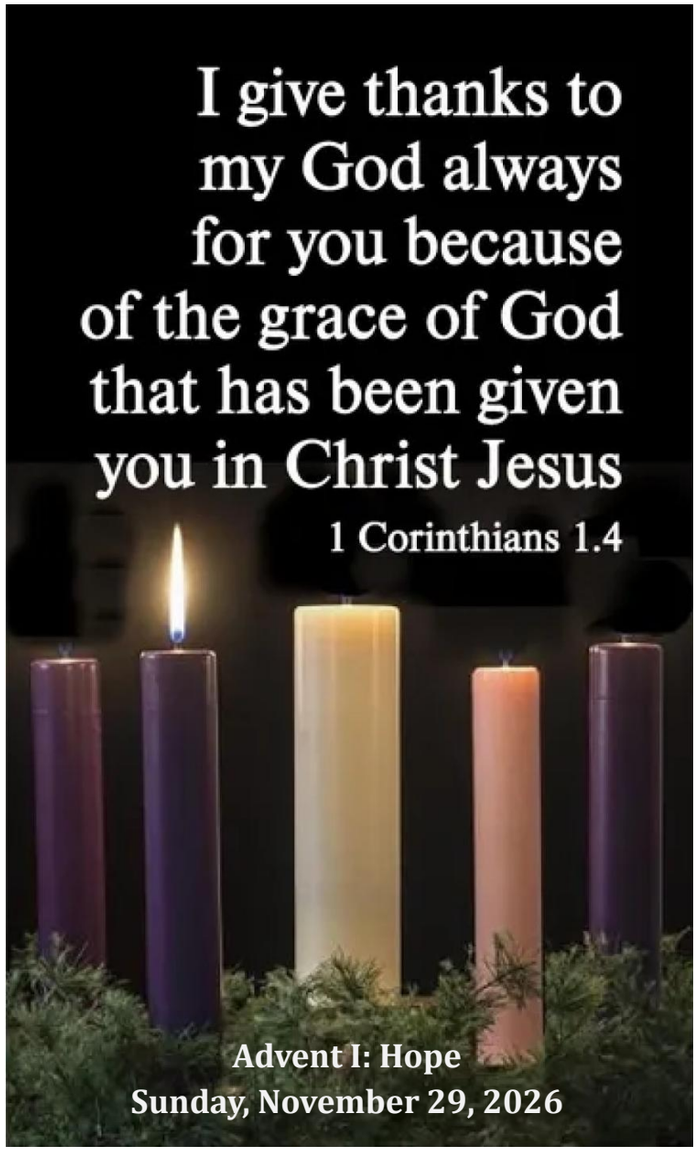


Covenant United Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001
724-287-7731 covenantoffice@zoominternet.net
Worship with us on YouTube.com/@CovenantTV1813

Guest Pastor: Brian F Graff, C.P.
Worship Leader: Nancy Rice
TV Producer: Rev. Bob Mathias
Musician: Melanie Rodgers
Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *Prepare the Way, O Zion* ~ Price

Prepare the Way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

**CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Now, in this holy season of Advent, we wait.
People: **For the faithful God is coming to us.**
Leader: Now, in this season of waiting, we listen.
People: **For the faithful Word speaks of good news to us.**
Leader: Now, in the waiting and listening, we watch.
People: **For the faithful Spirit is moving among us.**

**OPENING PRAYER

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

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE ~ The Candle of Hope

Sandy & Brian Graff

God's promise of hope is for all people;
Together, we anticipate the day of his coming.

Sandy: 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!

Brian: 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.

Congr.: **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

God who is drawing near to us: we live in a world of violence, which we do not condemn enough: Come to us, with your peace. We are filled with the best of intentions, but are unable to follow through with action: Come to us, with your will. We are sinners, who are afraid to gaze into your mirror of grace: Come to us, with your mercy. Word of Flesh: have mercy; Friend of the poor: have mercy; Bridegroom of the faithful: have mercy.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In this season of waiting, the Good News is this: mercy, new life, hope, and joy are the gifts we receive from our God.

People: **Thanks be to the God of Advent, who came in the Child, who is with us in the Spirit, who will come again in glory! Amen.**

**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.

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 80: 1 – 7, 17 – 19 *Pew Bible P.470*

NT LESSON 1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9 *Pew Bible P.949*

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

**GOSPEL READING Mark 13: 24 – 37 *Pew Bible P.826*

Leader: 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 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 IN SONG
Hymn 129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* *ES IST EIN' ROS'*

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy… People: **…come and save your people.**

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 *A Proclamation for Advent* ~ Neale/Drennen

**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

God-who-gifts-us, you do so, not so we might have more, but we might care for those who have so little; not so we might splurge, but so we might share. In the waiting of Advent, may we see the wanting, and use our resources to fill their lives with hope, grace, and joy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sending

**HYMN 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

**THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**CHORAL RESPONSE *While We are Waiting, Come* ~ Clonninger/Cason

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.

**POSTLUDE



Church Notices:

Wait! Don't Go Yet!

Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall.
Thanks to "*Mother Hubbard's Leftovers"* for hosting today!

Mission

Trinity Food Pantry
Dec 6 & 13 Spices & Christmas-Inspired Sides

Calendar

Dec 6 Advent II: Peace Candle with the Wallaces' & Church Christmas Luncheon
Dec 11 7:00 PM *Kings of Kings* - movie for the family
Dec 13 Advent III: Joy Candle with the Morrisons'
Dec 20 Advent IV: Love Candle with the Loebell's & Noisy Offering of Change
Dec 20 12:15 PM Rehearsal for Christmas Eve
Dec 24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship (Preludes begin at 3:45)
Dec 27 11:00 AM Christmastide Carols Worship Service
What carol do you want to sing? Forms on bulletin table

Celebration

November 30 Nancy Blewett's Birthday

Christmas Memorial Plants

Order Deadline Wed. Dec. 2 12:00 Noon – Bring to church office WITH payment.



Please Pray for:

Mike Woods, neighbor of Gina's mother, healing after surgery;

Bonnie Woods, Mike's wife & caretaker of Gina Loebell's mother, prayers;

Jennifer, co-worker of Connie Swartzfeger, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer;

Carrie, co-worker of Connie Swartzfeger, facing cancer

Zoanne Weckerly, Melanie Rodger's Mother, for healing & transitions;

Jane Faulkner, Ann Morrison's sister in CA, with continuing housing concerns and

Scotty McAliley, Ann's cousin in Marietta, Georgia, continuing bi-weekly chemo-therapy for the remainder of her life.