

Covenant United Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

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



"The Ascension," a roof boss in the Nave ceiling of York Minster Cathedral, UK. Carved wood and paint, this is an 1840s restoration from an earlier fire; Photo by Aidan McRae Thomson, Flickr.com ☩

Eastertide VII

May 17, 2026, 11:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert
Worship Leader: Elaine Nucci

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.
Guest Musician: Ione Mathias

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

People: **The Lord Jesus Christ has risen to reign; His is the name above all names.**

Pastor: We are witnesses: the Lord is risen!

People: **Christ has ascended to reign on high. Alleluia**

All: **Let us worship God!**

** OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 258

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

DEO GRACIAS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ our Savior, as you ascended, you left the work to us. You called us to keep the movement going, to witness to the ends of the earth, to pray, to heal, to glorify you through our thoughts, words, and deeds, to show the world a glimpse of the goodness you have given us. We have fallen short of this call. We have hidden ourselves in fear, sought our own comfort, and resigned ourselves to the status quo.

Forgive us, and strengthen us to do your will, that we may be signs of your coming reign. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Listen to this prayer: *“Protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”* This is the prayer that Christ prayed on our behalf. This tenderness and care for us shows us who Jesus is—the one who hears our prayers, responding to our longing for forgiveness with mercy.

People: **Thanks be to God, praise be to Christ, glory be to the Holy Spirit – Alleluia!**

**RESPONSE C54

To God Be the Glory

MY TRIBUTE

To God be the glory, To God be the glory,

To God be the glory for the things He has done.

With His blood He has saved me; With His pow’r He has raised me.

To God be the glory for the things He has done.

****THE PEACE OF CHRIST & NOISY OFFERING OF LOOSE CHANGE**

Leader: Bear with one another, and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

The Word

****ILLUMINATION 240 V.1** *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* ALLELUIA NO. 1

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give Praise to his name.

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.

NT LESSON Acts 1: 1 – 14 *Pew Bible P.984*

Leader: Here ends the reading from Acts of the Apostles. People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 68 Hymn 55 *Come Like the Driving Wind, O God* NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

NT LESSON 1 Peter 4: 12 – 14, 5: 6 – 11 *Pew Bible P.986*

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

****GOSPEL LESSON** John 17: 1 – 11 *Pew Bible P.879*

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

CANTICLE 239 v.1 *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing* GELOBT SEI GOTT

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring; Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

MESSAGE Did Anyone Notice the Footprints Left Behind? PASTOR JOHN

****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from A Brief Statement of Faith PC(USA)

In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all the peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER with 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

**DOXOLOGY B593 *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* DOXOLOGY 1967

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creature here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. A-men.***

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Great God, to you we give our thanks; your steadfast love endures forever. With gratitude we bring our gifts to you. Bless us and our gifts, that our lives and our resources may be a source of healing and hope, of joy and justice in our world. Amen.

The Sending

**HYMN 246 *Christ Is Alive!* TRURO

**THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE

✠ York Minster is the United Kingdom's largest Cathedral dating from 1220 CE, though a church on this site existed from 627 CE. The current Cathedral took some 250 years to build and was completed in 1472. The vastness of this church edifice and the ground on which it stands has been a steady witness to history in the City of York. This Cathedral site was once the location of the Roman garrison in the early centuries of the Common Era -- the city was called Eboracum back then -- and was witness to the crowning of Constantine as Roman Emperor upon



the death of his father in 306 CE. At the time, Constantine was on campaign with the Roman Legion against the Picts in the North who inhabited what is now Scotland.

Though an impressive cathedral in every way, York Minster has had to endure several large fires that have damaged the wooden beams in the roof structure. Most medieval cathedrals were provided with stone vaulted ceilings precisely to avoid the problems suffered here, but York's architects found that building on such an unprecedentedly large scale brought limitations, thus all the Minster's high ceilings had to be built of wood in imitation of stone. An Achilles' Heel, but a beautiful one!



Pictured on the front cover of the bulletin is the close up of this central “roof boss” -- A carved ornamental projection at the junction of stone vaulting ribs or the beams of a timber roof. Initially quite simple, throughout the medieval period bosses became ever larger and more elaborately decorated. This boss was a primary support for the wooden ribs in the Nave of the Minster.

In this roof boss, titled “The Ascension,” Christ's feet disappear into the sky surrounded by the heads of Mary and the remaining eleven apostles (recounted by Luke in Acts 1:13). This boss was destroyed by fire in 1840 -- Luckily a local artist had made detailed drawings of the original roof bosses from a scaffold a few years earlier which enabled the more important ones, like this one, to be copied when the ceiling was replaced.

Membership at Covenant United Presbyterian Church

If you are reading this information in our Worship Bulletin, you already belong here at Covenant United Presbyterian Church. Here, all are welcome, and membership in the congregation is not required to participate in any of our activities and ministries. By becoming a member, you will have voice and vote in congregational meetings and can better express your commitment to Jesus Christ through this church. Welcoming people as members helps us to get to know them better and to support you more fully – letting all of us stay engaged and grow in faith together. Individuals may join the church by Profession of Faith and Baptism (for those who have never been baptized), by Reaffirmation of Faith (for those who are not currently active members of another Christian church), or by Transfer of Church Letter (for those on the active roll of another church.) Contact Pastor John to find out more.

From the Treasurer: April Financial Snapshot

Expenses	\$14,350
Income	\$5,859
Taken from Reserves	\$8,491

Church Announcements

Wait! Don't Go Yet! Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to *Connie Swartzfeger & Grace Sechler* for hosting today!

Donations: "Tithely" at covenantbutler.org or "Tithely" Smartphone App

Lighthouse Item of the Month: – **MAY** Condiments

Worship Accompanists Needed! All Sundays are open for Summer Session Now – Sept 13.
Piano, Organ, Any Instrument OK! See Church Administrator ASAP.



Please Pray for:

Audrey Carlson, has good news to share: her condition has greatly improved and she thanks everyone for their prayers. Though still in need of a walker, her doctor has given her permission to start driving again!

Scott, Linda Peter's neighbor, battling cancer;

Pam Patterson, in her place at Concordia (Cabot);

Carolyn Starkey, Dave Loebell's aunt from Ohio, adjusting to a new pacemaker;

Leo Deblack, new-born great grandson of Nancy Rice's brother, with a rare, but treatable genetic disorder called MSUD. . . prayers will be appreciated for the family going forward;

Jane Faulkner, Ann Morrison's sister in CA, receiving assistance with her FEMA housing file from Congressman Kelly's office, while she is managing treatment for persistent lung-related illness (MAC);

Scotty McAliley, Ann Morrison's cousin in Marietta, Georgia, continuing chemo-therapy for the remainder of her life, while caring for her 99-year-old mother, herself with health issues;

Maria, Miquel & family, known to Dave Loebell, Miquel has been diagnosed with aggressive bladder cancer.