

# **Covenant United Presbyterian Church**

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

724-287-7731 [covenantoffice@zoominternet.net](mailto:covenantoffice@zoominternet.net)

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



*Christ Healing the Blind Man*, by Gioachino Assereto, 1640 ✦  
Oil on canvas, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA

## **Lent IV**

**March 15, 2026, 11:00 AM**

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Rev. Bob Mathias

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

Guest Musicians: Ione Mathias & Lars Morrison

## ~ Order of Worship ~

\*\* = Please stand, as able

### The Gathering

PRELUDE & TIME OF CENTERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *Create in Me a Clean Heart* CREATE IN ME (Capers)

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters,  
People: **and gives us refreshment of soul.**  
Pastor: Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go,  
People: **so that the name of God will be glorified.**  
Pastor: Though all manner of evil befall us, we will not be afraid,  
People: **for the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us.**  
Pastor: We are never away from the love and mercy of the Lord,  
All: **We come into his presence right now and we shall be with him for ever  
and ever. Let us worship God, Amen!**

\*\* OPENING PRAYER

\*\*OPENING HYMN 624 *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* TOULON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER CONFESSION ☩

**Holy Jesus, we confess that we fail to question our own sightlessness. Being so sure that we “see,” we miss the truths you would teach us. With the poultice of your love, cure this blindness. Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings, our own failures and our own faults. Make our “shadow side” known to us and help us to diminish it with the light of your grace. For it is only when we see ourselves clearly that we can worship you truly. In the name of Jesus, we pray . . .**

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: We are thankful for the bright light of God’s grace that enables us to truly see who we are and whose we are – this is good news!  
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven – Thanks be to God!**

\*\*CONFESSION RESPONSE 581 *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: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will  
kiss each other. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

## The Word

\*\*ILLUMINATION 224 v.1 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

ROCKINGHAM

***When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.***

HT LESSON 1 Samuel 16: 1 – 13

*Pew Bible P.226*

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

PSALM 23 *The Divine Shepherd*

**1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

**3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.**

**4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head  
with oil; my cup overflows.**

**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in  
the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

NT LESSON Ephesians 5: 8 – 14

*Pew Bible P.951*

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

\*\*GOSPEL LESSON John 9: 1 – 41

*Pew Bible P.971*

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

\*\*CANTICLE *My Spirit Longs for Thee*

FINGAL

***My spirit longs for Thee with in my troubled breast,  
Though I unworthy be of so divine a Guest.  
Of so divine a Guest unworthy though I be,  
Yet has my heart no rest, unless it come from Thee.  
Unless it come from Thee, in vain I look around;***

*In all that I can see no rest is to be found.  
No rest is to be found but in Thy blessed love;  
O let my wish be crowned, and send it from above! A-men.*

THE MESSAGE

*Blinded By the Light*

PASTOR JOHN

\*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH †

*Written by Lisa Frenz*

**I believe in God the Creator,  
who made me and all things,  
who set me on my path in this world.**

**I believe in God the Savior,  
who is one with the Creator,  
who rescued me and all creation  
from the depredations of our violations  
against God and creation.**

**This man, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ,  
walked a path through this world,  
taking on human form having been born of a woman  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
He lived and worked in this world among people just like me.  
He walked God's path to death on a cross,  
and rose from the dead to open our pathway to eternal life.**

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit, my counselor and guide,  
who is one with the Creator and the Christ,  
who through the body and blood of Jesus  
brings me into communion with all people, past, present and future;  
who calls me to walk a sacred way of life through this world,  
caring for creation and the people I meet on the way,  
loving them, helping them, welcoming them without prejudice,  
being God's hands and feet in the world. Amen.**

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 OFFERINGS & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM            *Beautiful Savior* ~ Riegger

\*\*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.***

CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Lord Jesus, we receive abundance from your hand, and we present a portion of that abundance for your worship. Be present among us as we share with others, that all your people may be provided for and your blessing may be revealed to everyone. We pray in your holy name. Amen.**

## The Sending

\*\*HYMN 803                    *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*                    RESIGNATION

\*\*THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

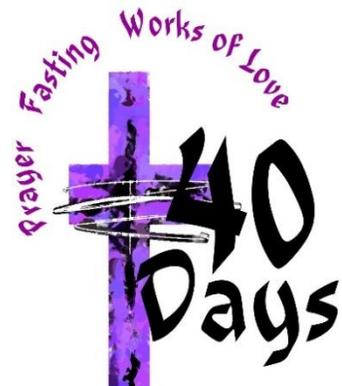
FINAL RESPONSE            *Abide with Me* ~ Lyte/Monk

*Abide with me: fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens: Lord, with me abide!  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

POSTLUDE

✦ About the bulletin cover: Gioachino Assereto (Italian, 1600-1649) was a lifelong Genoese artist known as one of the finest history painters during the early Baroque period. He painted in both fresco and oils and was greatly influenced by artists in Rome who were strong adherents of Caravaggio's highly dramatic tenebrism (chiaroscuro painting in light and shadow.). In this well known subject of the healing of the blind man from John 9, we see the impressive detailing of Jesus rubbing the mud into the blind man's eyes.

✦ The Prayer of Confession is written by The Rev. Marilyn Kennedy Levine and the Affirmation of Faith this morning is "Copyright Lisa Frenz. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission."



# **Church Announcements**

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

Donations: "Tithely" at [covenantbutler.org](http://covenantbutler.org) or "Tithely" Smartphone App

ABBE: Adult Brown-Bag Education: The group will meet on Thursday, March 20, 2026, at 11:30 AM, to continue conversation and reflection on *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi.

Souper Bowl of Caring: March 22 during fellowship hour we raise funds for a local food charity. This annual event has been rescheduled from February. If you are making soup, please sign-up in the narthex so we don't have duplicates. If you are eating soup, please leave a donation in the soup kettle on the serving table. Thank You for your participation & support!

## Celebrations

March 16 Happy Anniversary to Bill & Nancy Rice!

March 17 Happy Birthday to Betty Butler on her 97<sup>th</sup>!

March 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day to all of Irish descent & all who identify as Irish this day!

CELEBRATE!



Lighthouse Item of the Month: MARCH – Cereal

## **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.



Prayer List: 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](mailto:covenantoffice@zoominternet.net)

Please Pray for:

**All active in and affected by the military actions in Iran, Israel, and other portions of the Middle East** – for relief from suffering, for discerning diplomacy, and a lasting peace for all;

**Leo Deblack**, new-born great grandson of Nancy Rice's brother, has a rare, but treatable genetic disorder called MSUD, prayers for the family as they make the adjustments to actively monitor and care for him going forward.

**The Thompson Family**, known to Gina Loebell, as they mourn the loss of Gina's friend, Donna, from a recent stroke;

**Virginia Lokovich**, is in Concordia Cabot;

**Audrey Carlson**, doing physical therapy after hip replacement at Concordia Cabot;

**Richard Mazza C.F.X.**, cousin of Elaine Nucci, being treated for recurring cancer;

**Pam Patterson**, residing at Concordia Cabot;

**Jane Faulkner**, Ann Morrison's sister in CA, that an appeal made to Whitehouse.gov will break the impasse with FEMA concerning her ongoing housing situation;

**Scotty McAliley**, Ann Morison's cousin in Marietta, Georgia, continues with chemo-therapy treatments every two weeks for the remainder of her life. She treasures each day and week she can visit with her parents in North Carolina on off-weeks.

**Music Accompanists Needed for April 12, 19, 26 Worship**

**Piano, Organ, or Instrument**

**See the Church Administrator ASAP**

**March 29 Worship:**

**We're asking everyone who can play an instrument to select one hymn or service music piece to play during the service.**

**See Church Administrator for list of music to choose from.**

# Lent & Easter

**April 2 7:00 PM:**

Maundy Thursday at Covenant

**April 3 12:00 PM:**

Good Friday at St. Andrews UPC

**April 5:**

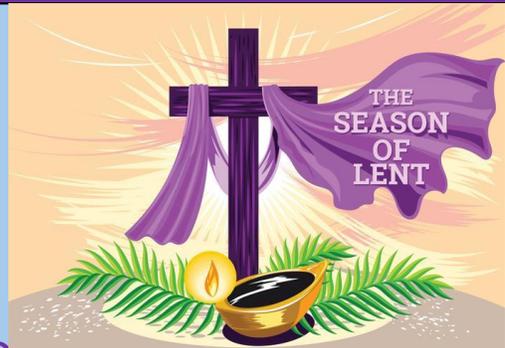
**7:00 AM** “Sonrise” Service at Moraine State Park

*(Pleasant Valley Boat Launch – Dress Warm – Bring a Chair)*

**11:00 AM:** Easter Festival Service

– Covenant Sanctuary

– Special Musical Guest Mrs. Kathy Kemerer



## Butler Area Presbyterians & Covenant Church

The Presbyterian Campus

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

Trinity (Contemporary) 724-287-7464 [www.trinitybutler.org](http://www.trinitybutler.org)

Covenant (Traditional) 724-287-7731 [www.covenantutler.org](http://www.covenantutler.org)

