

Covenant Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

724-287-7731 covenantoffice@zoominternet.net

Worship with us on YouTube: CovenantTV1813



The Parable of the Talents" (2013), ⚔
By Andrej Nikolaevich Mironov. Ryazan, Russia.

The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 19, 2023

Pledge Dedication Sunday

Pastor: Rev. John C.R. Silbert

Worship Leader: Rev. Bob Mathias

Musicians: Dominico Reyes, Steven Yealy

Broadcast TV Producer: Brian F. Graff

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: To you, O God of the heavens, we lift our eyes.

People: **Have mercy on us!**

Pastor: God has been our dwelling place from generation to generation.

People: **Hear us when we call!**

Pastor: From everlasting to everlasting, God is with us.

People: **We will magnify your holy name!**

**OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 643

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have given us so many gifts. You bless us with talents, resources, skills, and knowledge, and yet we hide them under a bushel. We hoard these gifts, instead of following you and sharing with those in need. We have been poor stewards of all you have given.

Forgive us, and help us grow what we are given, that it might be returned in service to you, Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: God has destined us not for wrath, but for salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that we may live with him.
Let us proclaim the good news of the gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

**CONFESSION 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

Leader: Be kind to one another, and tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you!**

NOISY OFFERING OF LOOSE CHANGE

The Word

**ILLUMINATION 260 v.4 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* HYFRYDOL

***Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne.
As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest;
Here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.***

HT LESSON Judges 4: 1 – 7 *Pew Bible P.191-192*

Leader: This, is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 123 HYMN 788 *To You, O Lord, We Lift Our Eyes* CANNONS

NT LESSON 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11 *Pew Bible P.960-961*

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

People: **Praise be to You, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 25: 14 – 30 *Pew Bible P.807*

Pastor: The Gospel of Our Lord.

People: **Glory to You, O Christ!**

**CANTICLE 49 v.4 *The God of Abraham Praise* LEONI

***You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!***

MESSAGE *Links in the Chain of Providence* PASTOR JOHN

SERMON RESPONSE 564 *Glory to God* GLORIA(Taizé)

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

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ☩

**We believe in God, Creator of the universe, Giver of every good gift,
Author of life itself.**

We believe in Jesus Christ, who reminded us of the coming of God's kingdom, who commanded us to care for those in need, who taught us to store up treasures in heaven, not on earth, and who gave us the example of self-giving love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who inspires us to faithful stewardship of God's gifts, in whom we live and move and have our being, by whom all things are possible.

We believe that God has given us gifts to be shared freely and generously, in a spirit of love and joy. We acknowledge that we are merely stewards of all that is God's, caretakers of God's home. We believe that faithful stewardship is an act of worship, a means of praising God who has blessed us so abundantly. We believe that God has great things in store for us, for it is in giving that we receive. Amen.

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Thanks Be To Thee ~ Faustini*
Thanks be to Thee, Thanks be to Thee,
Thou hast thy chosen people led,
Is-rael forth through the sea to Thee,
O Lord, Thanks be to Thee, O Lord,
Thou hast thy chosen people,
Thy chosen, Thy people, Thou hast led,
Thy chosen people led, through the sea,
hast led Israel forth through the sea.
Like as a shepherd hast thou led them, Lord,
Thy hand shielded them in Thy great goodness unto the end.

**DOXOLOGY 647

Give Thanks

GIVE THANKS

***Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ the Son. (x2)***

***And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"(x2)***

Give thanks. Give thanks.

**DEDICATORY PRAYER OF OUR PLEDGES AND GIFTS †

Leader: Lord and Creator of all, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it.

People: **You have entrusted us with gifts – time, talent, energy and money – and asked us to be good stewards. With thanks and praise we respond to your call.**

Leader: We bring these gifts you have truly given us, re-presenting them and ourselves as living sacrifices.

People: **We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears, our dollars and our hours. We commit ourselves to work for your kingdom, to love and serve wherever you call.**

Leader: We ask your blessing on the ministry of your church, as we seek to follow you with heart, soul, mind, and strength.

People: **Bless also these gifts, offerings and pledges, our investment in the future to which you have called us, that they may serve you and your kingdom.**

Leader: May these gifts be a sign of our gratitude and our thanksgiving, that by our giving we may become more generous, more hopeful, and more loving.

ALL: **For these, and all your blessings, we give you thanks and praise, O God. Amen.**

The Sending

**HYMN 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

****THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

****POSTLUDE**

- ☩ -- *The cover painting is by the 48 year old Russian, Andrei Nikolaevich Mironov. He is from Ryazan, Russia. His style is in the line of the 19th Cy Russian realist, Ilya Repin (1844-1930). When not painting formal portraits, his work focuses on Christianity. He is self-taught.*
- *The Affirmation of Faith is by Allen & Sara Ewing-Merrill and shared on Rev. Allen's web-blog "Forward on the Journey" --*
<http://forwardonthejourney.blogspot.com/2007/11/affirmation-of-faith.html>.
- *The Dedicatory Prayer is adapted from the Rev. Teri Peterson, Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church*

Offerings, Tithes, & Gifts: (Other than the weekly offering plate)

- A) Debit/Credit:** at the church office!
B) www.covenantbutler.org click green "Donate" Button at the top right
C) Mobile App: Download "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement", search Covenant Presbyterian Butler, use login from website
D) Mail: 107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

Fellowship Hour: Thanks to the Elaine Nucci for hosting today. For future dates, a host sign-up sheet is in the Narthex outside the office.

Celebrations: November 19 Grace Sechler's Birthday

Congregational Meeting: **TODAY 12:30 PM** – Fellowship Hall
Active Members will vote on proposed changes to our By-Laws.

Dec. 3 Carolers Needed! Join us to sing a few carols for the Covenant Chronicle Christmas Special. Wear your Christmas sweater or festive red/green and we'll film as soon as worship ends. Then we'll enjoy a holiday fellowship hour! Please see Brian to receive the music in advance.

Poinsettia Orders: Orders for memorial (or in honor of) poinsettia plants are due by November 30. They will be used to decorate the Sanctuary, then you may take them home after the Christmas Eve service. See the insert in today's bulletin.

Cold Weather Entry: As cold weather and winter approaches, we ask you to be safe and enter the church through the ground level brown door (with the Trinity sign, then come up the interior stairs to our Sanctuary. This is especially important during snow and ice occurrences.

Butler Clergy Network: If anyone would like to donate personally to the Butler Clergy Network you may donate to the listed address. St. Peter's Anglican is the fiscal agent for the BCN. Checks, please put "BCN" in the memo line.

Butler Clergy Network
c/o St. Peter's Anglican Church
218 E. Jefferson St.
Butler, PA 16001

From the Treasurer: October Financial Snapshot

Total Budgeted Expenses	\$11,294
Total Budgeted Income minus Reserves	\$7,707
Taken from Reserve Funds to meet expenses	\$3,587
Total of 2023 Pledges	\$80.900

Prayer

Prayer Concerns: 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

Please Pray for:

Vivas McCoskey, is rehabbing while living at New Haven Court;

David and Nancy Blewett, at home, doing well with weekly physical therapy;

Virginia Williams, Gina Loebell's mother, has received good news on the medical front;

Tillie (and husband, John), known to David and Gina Loebell, also has received good news from Doctors treating her for cancer;

Kathy, known to John and Mary Reefer, involved in a serious automobile accident last week and is hospitalized with Neurological issues.

Marsha, a friend of lone Mathias, is receiving treatment for breast cancer;

Brady Young, brother of Joy Bertotti known to David & Gina Loebell, was in a bad motorcycle accident recently, for healing;

Gary Lokovich, son of Virginia, dealing with multiple health issues;

Pam Patterson, in continuing care at Concordia in Cabot was visited by church friends;

Those caught-up in the fog of war in Israel, Palestine and the Ukraine.

Matthew 25: 20 - 21

E R E T N E Y D A H W Y
N E E B R E H E S E E O
O T N I S G T D F S L U
D S E W V R R N L T L R
B A H M E A O A L N Q E
R M T V A H W H I E T C
I G O O D C T V W L H E
N G N I Y A S T M A I I
G F A H M L U O A T N V
I S I A A P R H I M G E
N S N V D E T J O Y S D
G Y E E E D R A W R O F

Word List

TRUSTWORTHY RECEIVED BRINGING TALENTS MATTHEW
FORWARD THINGS SAYING MASTER HANDED CHARGE SLAVE
ENTER YOUR WILL WELL THEN SAID OVER NRSV MORE
MANY MADE INTO HAVE GOOD FIVE DONE CAME BEEN WHO
SEE PUT JOY HIS HIM HAD FEW

(Matthew 25:20-21 NRSV) Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' (21) His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'