

Covenant Presbyterian Church

230 E. Jefferson St. Butler, PA

Advent I

November 27, 2022

Today's Pastor: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Ms. Dorothy Wallace

Accompanist: Steven Yealy

Choir/Instrumental Director: Bri Carr

Covenant TV Producer: Brian F. Graff

~ Order of Service ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PROCLAMATION

** PRAYER OF THE DAY

**HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE ~ The Candle of Peace

Elders Gina & Dave Loebell

We look for Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, to come;

Let us be doing the things that make for peace.

Gina: 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 called us to hope. The second candle calls us to seek peace.

Dave: Listen to the voice of the prophet Isaiah: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."

Both: Let the light of this second candle shine boldly in our lives, reminding us to seek peace through our Lord the Prince of Peace! And let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Congregation: **Loving God, the violence, inequality, and oppression in our world and in our very own neighborhoods is unending. Bring healing, bring peace, and bring change through us. Be with us as we embody the actions and outcomes of peace for which we pray. Send your Spirit to stir us up, to afflict the comfortable, so that we might truly live out the gospel and our lives might foster real change. Open the doors for your light to flood the darkness, for your peace to cover all the earth. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

VENI EMMANUEL

***O Come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Forgive us for ever doubting that you will accomplish your will and your desire, for even now we see the advent of a new day, the birth of a new age with peace upon earth and in heaven above.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone! Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

****RESPONSE K9 *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI MEINEKE
*Glory be 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 hope, peace, joy, & love be yours in abundance this advent. 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.***

OT LESSON Isaiah 2: 1 – 5 *Pew Bible P.550*
Leader: This, is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 122 Responsive Reading
Leader: 1, 3, 5, 7 People: 2, 4, 6, 8 All: 9

NT LESSON Romans 13: 11 – 14 *Pew Bible P.923*
Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.
People: **Praise be to You, O Lord!**

**PULPIT HYMN 103 *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* O-SO-SO

**GOSPEL READING Matthew 24: 36 - 44 *Pew Bible P.806*
Pastor: 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 you hear us when we call. Amen.***

SERMON *And So It Begins Again* PASTOR BRIAN

SERMON RESPONSE 108 v.1 *Of the Father's Love Begotten* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

***Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world's began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
of all the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore! Amen.***

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are an Advent people, a people of hope, peace, and joy. For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promises: our Blessed Hope, the Maker of Peace, the Author of Joy unbounded; the One who declares in Himself that we have been redeemed.

Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist. We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end.

The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be. And in our waiting, our hoping, our peacemaking, and in our joy we work and worship, pray and play, in all things believing that hope, peace, joy and love will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever. 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 TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night ~ Saylor*
Watchman, tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are.
Trav'ler, o'er yon mountain's height, See that glory beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray Aught of joy or hope fortell?
Trav'ler, yes; it brings the day, Promised day of Israel.
Watchman, tell us of the night; Higher yet that star ascends.
Trav'ler, blessedness and light, Peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beam alone Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Trav'ler, ages are its own; See, it bursts o'er all the earth.
Watchman, tell us of the night, For the morning seems to dawn.
Trav'ler, darkness takes its flight, Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wand'rings cease; Hie thee to thy quiet home.
Trav'ler, lo! the Prince of Peace, Lo! the Son of God is come!

**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 can I give him: give my heart.***

**THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, accept our offerings, and use us to bring life and health and hope to your world. Make us generous and faithful stewards of your mysteries, doing your will and proclaiming your word; through Christ we pray. Amen.

The Sending

MINUTE FOR MISSION

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

**THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Offerings, Tithes, & Gifts: Mail to 230 E. Jefferson St.; **Online** at www.covenantbutler.org; **Mobile** via Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App

Fellowship Hour: Thank you to Connie Brown for hosting today.

Celebration: Nov 30 Nancy Blewett's Birthday

Christmas Poinsettias & Greens Orders: **December 1 is the deadline** to order poinsettias, Christmas cacti, & cyclamen. Help us decorate the Sanctuary while paying tribute to a loved one past or present. Please use the order form in the bulletin or online email and include payment to "Covenant United Presbyterian Church" with the order. Orders should be given to the church office.

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 or the Prayer Hotline email covenantprayers@zoominternet.net.

Pam Patterson, ongoing rehabilitation at Concordia Cabot.

Andrew Wehr, Elaine Nucci's son in exploring paths of health and wellness.
Norman Howarth, friend of Pastor John and Elaine, for timely radiation treatments following oral cancer surgery.

Bonnie (Silbert) Readett, sister of Pastor John as she heals (and copes) with therapy for a fractured clavicle.

The Morrison Family, prayers of joy and thanksgiving for the marriage of son Benjamin and Kelia in Florida last weekend.

Aria, the young girl who has had many blood treatments for leukemia, prayers for continued good monthly reports in her condition.

Tracey, a family relation of Leanne Heaton, awaiting next steps after recent chemo treatments.

Upcoming Events

Friday, December 2 7:30 PM
SRU Brass Ensemble Concert
A Free concert in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 18 12:00 PM
Christmas Party Luncheon

Dress Holiday Elegant or Holiday Casual. Just be ready to be festive!
in the assembly room

Wednesday, December 21 7:00 PM
A Quiet Christmas
A Joint Butler Area Presbyterians Worship Service
at Hill UP Church

Saturday, December 24 4:00 PM
"Come Emmanuel"
A Christmas Eve Service with Communion & Candle-lighting
in the Grand Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25 10:30 AM
Christmas Day Worship
At St. Andrews UPC

Matthew 24: 43 - 44

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

Word List

UNEXPECTED UNDERSTAND THEREFORE MATTHEW STAYED COMING BROKEN
WOULD THIEF READY OWNER NIGHT KNOWN HOUSE AWAKE WHAT THIS
PART NRSV MUST INTO HOUR HAVE ALSO YOU WAS SON NOT MAN
LET HAD BUT IF BE

(Matthew 24:43-44) But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. (44) Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. (NRSV)