

## **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)



“The Agony in the Garden,” by El Greco, about 1590-1595 ✦  
Oil on canvas, the Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio

### **Palm & Passion Sunday (Lent VI/A)**

**March 29, 2026, 11:00 AM**

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Dorothy Wallace

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

Guest Musicians: Dave Loebell, Ione Mathias, Lars Morrison, Don Wallace

## ~ Order of Worship ~

\*\* = Please stand, as able

### The Gathering

PRELUDE & TIME OF CENTERING *Were You There* ~ Barber0

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: What will we lay down as Christ passes by?  
People: **We have no cloaks today, but we will lay down our hearts, our hopes,  
and our lives.**  
Pastor: As the crowds in Jerusalem cried out long ago, we echo,  
People: **Hosanna! Save us! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the  
Lord!**

UNISON PRAYER FOR PALM SUNDAY

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**  
Liturgist: Let us pray together:  
All: **We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus  
Christ, who entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was  
proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and  
branches along his way.  
Let these branches be signs of his victory, and grant that we who carry  
them may follow him in the way of the cross, that, dying and rising with  
him, we may enter into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and  
forever. Amen.**

\*\*THE PROCLAMATION OF THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 21:1-11  
Pastor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
People: **Hosanna in the highest!**

\*\*OPENING HYMN 196

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

\*\*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: Through Christ, God was pleased to reconcile all things, by making peace through the blood of the cross. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

## The Word

\*\*ILLUMINATION 224 v.3

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

ROCKINGHAM

***See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?***

HT LESSON

Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a

*Pew Bible P.594*

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

PSALM 31

Hymn 214

*You Are My Refuge, Faithful God*

MORNING SONG

NT LESSON

Philippians 2: 5 – 11

*Pew Bible P.954*

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

\*\*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.***

\*\*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 26: 14 – 27: 66

*Pew Bible PP.808 – 811*

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

A RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

*Having Easter Faith in a Good Friday World*

PASTOR JOHN

\*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN SONG

HYMN 209 *My Song Is Love Unknown*

LOVE UNKNOWN

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

**\*\*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**

**O God, you are with us as we plunge to the depths of despair and rise yet victorious. You understand when we stumble, and you pick us up when we fall. May our gifts be testaments of our gratitude for all you do for us. May our pledge to stand by you be shown in what we are willing to share with the world, and may this church help to share your love with all around us. In Christ's steadfast name we pray, Amen.**

## **The Sending**

**\*\*HYMN 215**                                      *What Wondrous Love Is This*                                      WONDROUS LOVE

**\*\*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:** This landscape rendering of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane by Domenikos Theotocopoulos (El Greco -- the Greek, 1541-1614) is an important image as we enter into the Holy Week of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here, Jesus, prays to his Heavenly Father, saying, *"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want. (Matthew 26:39, NRSV)"* The cup is held before him, in mystic solemnity, by an angel above and to the left, while Peter, James and John are asleep beneath, in the distance on the right, Judas, his betrayer, and

the guards are coming . . . And so Christ drinks of that cup to the very end, that we might drink of the cup of salvation by his grace.

El Greco, was a Greek painter, sculptor, and architect of the Spanish Renaissance. He is regarded as a precursor of both the Expressionism and Cubism of the 20<sup>th</sup> CY, while his personality and works were a source of inspiration for poets and writers all along. El Greco has been characterized by modern scholars as an artist so individual that he belongs to no conventional school. He is best known for tortuously elongated figures and often fantastic or phantasmagorical pigmentation, marrying Byzantine traditions with those of Western painting.

## **Church Announcements**

Wait! Don't Go Yet! Join us for food and conversation in Fellowship Hall right after the service. Thanks to *Sandy & Brian Graff* 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 Thu. April 2, 2026, at 11:30 AM

Lighthouse Item of the Month: APRIL – Pasta

Worship Accompanists Needed! April 12, 19, 26 Piano, Organ, Any Instrument OK! See Church Administrator ASAP.

### **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:

**Alene Campbell**, lone's Mother, was in the hospital for a couple days, but is now home;

**Scott**, Linda Peter's neighbor, battling cancer

**Sherry Bartman**, cousin of Sandra Graff, from Auburn, GA, was diagnosed with cancer, 4 months after losing her husband;

**Rev. Mary Kitchen**, a BAPer Pastor serving both Faith and White Oak Springs Presbyterian Churches, fell and broke her leg (femur) this past week, prayers for speedy recovery;

**Leo Deblack**, new-born great grandson of Nancy Rice's brother, with a rare, but treatable genetic disorder called MSUD, is home from Children's Hospital and doing well, all things considered. He will be needing a liver transplant when he's 6 months old, so prayers will be appreciated for the family going forward;

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

**Audrey Carlson**, will be having a leg check-up in Mid-April with hopes of being cleared for driving, she continues doing physical therapy after hip replacement at Concordia Cabot;

**Richard Mazza C.F.X.**, cousin of Elaine Nucci, was called to his heavenly home last week; prayers for his loving family and especially the Xaverian Brothers with whom he lived in Danvers, Massachusetts, as they mourn his loss;

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

**Jane Faulkner**, Ann Morrison's sister in CA, has had her FEMA housing file referred to the Congressional Affairs Office (Region 3), while she is managing treatment for persistent lung-related illness (MAC);

**Scotty McAliley**, Ann Morrison'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.

**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.

## Matthew 21: 1 – 3

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

### Word List

IMMEDIATELY JERUSALEM DISCIPLES BETHPHAGE ANYTHING VILLAGE REACHED  
MATTHEW SAYING OLIVES DONKEY ANYONE UNTIE NEEDS MOUNT JESUS  
BRING AHEAD WITH WILL WHEN TIED THIS THEY THEM SENT SEND SAYS  
NRSV NEAR LORD JUST INTO FIND COME COLT YOU TWO HER HAD AND  
OF GO

*(Matthew 21:1-3) When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, (2) saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. (3) If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." (NRSV)*

