

Covenant United Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

724-287-7731 covenantoffice@zoominternet.net

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



"Gathering Stones" by Robert McGregor, 1877, Oil on canvas
City Arts Centre, City of Edinburgh Museums and Galleries, Scotland ✦

Eastertide V – Choir Appreciation Day May 3, 2026, 11:00 AM

*On this day we thank everyone who has helped in our worship during the 2025 – 2026 season,
especially all the talented vocalists and musicians.*

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Ann Morrison

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

Today's Special Guest Musician: Melanie Rodgers

TV Director: Rev. Bob Mathias

TV Ast. Directors: David Loebell, Elaine Nucci

Chancel Choir: Zachary Burkovich, Amy Cannard, Joseph Deibler, Ione Mathias, Mary Reefer,

Chrystal Sircely, Sydney Smith, Chas Tanner, Noah White, Lamont Williams

Worship Musicians: Joseph Deibler, David Loebell, Kathy Kemerer, Ione Mathias, Lars Morrison,

Don Wallace, Lamont Williams

Today's Guest Musicians: Luke Benkart, Zachary Chrobak, Adrian Creese,

Jenna Diem, Delaney Hindman, Raven Ordona

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT 277 v. 1 & 2

Hail Thee, Festival Day!

SALVE FESTA DIES

REFRAIN *Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;*

day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.

All the fair beauty of earth from the death of the winter arising!

Every good gift of the year now with its master returns: REFRAIN

Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the author of life and creation.

Treading the pathway of death, new life you give to us all: REFRAIN

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Christ is a living stone, precious in God's sight, and on him we build our lives.

People: **We are God's people, and we proclaim God's mighty acts, for we have been called out of darkness and into the light.**

Pastor: Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.

People: **With hearts lifted in praise, we come to worship.**

** OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 301

Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)

TWO OAKS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ, our way, our truth, our life, you have shown us the way, so clearly and fully. You have not simply told us how to live, you have shown us. But we still don't get it. We do not believe all you have said to us; we do not trust the way you have shown us.

Help us, O God. Forgive us. Open our ears to your truth, open our eyes to your way, and lead us into new life.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON ☩

Pastor: Beloved, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Jesus prepares a place for us, Jesus brings us close to him, Jesus answers us even in our unbelief.

People: **We are God's own people. Thanks be to God.**

**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: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

The Word

**ILLUMINATION 240 V.1 & 2 *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.
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.***

NT LESSON Acts 7: 55 – 60

Pew Bible P.891

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

PSALM 31 Hymn 811 *Make Your Face to Shine (Haz resplandecer tu rostro)*

GLAUCIA

NT LESSON 1 Peter 2: 2 – 10

Pew Bible P.984

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

**GOSPEL LESSON John 14: 1 – 14

Pew Bible P.877

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

CANTICLE 239 v.1, 2 *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!
The Lord of life is risen today! Death's mighty stone is rolled away.
Let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

MESSAGE

Gathering Stones

PASTOR JOHN

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Eucharist

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *I Sing Because I'm Happy* ~ Paden

**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.***

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God: You are a rock of refuge and a strong fortress for us. In times of trouble and seasons of shame you deliver us, for you are our redeemer, O Lord, our faithful God.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Congregation: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

SETTING THREE

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: Christ Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He goes ahead of us, to make a place for us in your house. We believe in you and we trust in him to lead us home. Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast. -- Great is the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Build us up, like living stones, into a spiritual house, and let us be your chosen people, your royal priesthood, proclaiming your mighty and marvelous work.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Celebrant: And now, let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom as our Lord has taught us:

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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

****THE COMMUNION**

Seated – follow Pastor's instructions

****THE RESPONSE AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

HYMN 535 *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

BLESS THE LORD

Celebrant: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: **And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Celebrant: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: **And forget not all God's benefits.**

Celebrant: Let us pray:

All: **Thank you, O God, for giving us communion with our risen and glorious Lord. Now send us out to be a sign of the new life that has come into the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Sending

**HYMN 463 *How Firm a Foundation* FOUNDATION

**THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**CHORAL RESPONSE 248 v. 1 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna* HYMN TO JOY

***Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.***

**POSTLUDE

✦ About the bulletin cover art: Robert McGregor, though born in England in 1847, emigrated to Scotland in 1855 and remained there until his death in Edinburgh, in 1922. McGregor was known for his sensitive and sympathetic views of rural farm life and the people found there – the working poor and the hard work in which they were engaged. He found inspiration in the artwork of fellow painter, Jean-François Millet of France who also focused on laborers and their work. According to the National Gallery of Victoria, Australia, *“In Scotland, women, known as bondagers were required to do tedious and unpaid tasks such as gathering stones to clear the land for wealthy landowners in exchange for free rent. These bondagers were allowed to grow vegetables and keep a cow to provide food for their children, yet life was difficult.”*

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.

Church Announcements

Please Note: Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to everyone who helped provide the Choir Appreciation pasta lunch!

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

ABBE: Adult Brown-Bag Education: The group will not meet Thu. May 6, 2026.

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

Worship Accompanists Needed! All Sundays are open for Summer Session May 10 – Sept 13. Piano, Organ, Any Instrument OK! See Church Administrator ASAP.



Please Pray for:

Scott, Linda Peter's neighbor, battling cancer;

Pam Patterson, has returned to her place at Concordia (Cabot);

Carolyn Starkey, Dave Loebell's aunt from Ohio, having numerous health issues;

Sherry Bartman, cousin of Sandra Graff, from Auburn, GA, battling cancer

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;

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;

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