

Covenant United Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

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



Adoration of the Mystic Lamb (detail), from the Ghent Altarpiece (Restored), 1426-1432

By Jan and Hubert Van Eyck, St. Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent, Belgium ♫

**Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 18, 2026, 11:00 AM**

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

Worship Leader: Ann Morrison

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Music Director: Dominico Reyes

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE & TIME OF CENTERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP ♫

Pastor: What offering do we need to bring to God? . . .
God does not look for sacrifices or offerings, but for open ears, like
channels for the truth.

People: **Grand gestures and offerings are not required,
but a heart-felt delight in doing the will of God.**

Pastor: My friends, behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

People: **God has put a new song in my mouth, placed a new melody on my
tongue.**

Pastor: The love of Jesus, the Lamb of God, be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

** OPENING PRAYER

**OPENING HYMN 468

In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified

LORD, BE GLORIFIED

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER CONFESION ♫

God of our baptismal waters, You sent the Baptist to point to your Son. But too often, we abandon his message and point only to ourselves. We point to our worship preferences rather than the God we worship. We point to our status rather than the grace that makes us all equal. We point to our values rather than the One who has always valued everyone. We point to our traditions rather than to the One who calls us to let go. We point to our past rather than to the One who calls us into the future. Forgive us, Lord, for pointing in all the wrong directions.

God of our baptismal hope, Forgive us when we do not wait patiently for your direction. Forgive us when we are too patient with our misdirection. Hold our gaze on your baptismal promise sealed in the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Through the power of your Spirit, give us the courage to speak what we have seen and point to the One who takes away the sins of the world. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: God continues to shine forth his light into our darkness. The revelation of God's steadfast love is everlasting, making all things new!
People: **In Jesus Christ, the light of the world, we are forgiven! Amen!**

**CONFSSION RESPONSE 581 *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)
***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: Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
People: **And also with you.**

NOISY OFFERING OF LOOSE CHANGE

The Word

**ILLUMINATION 459 v.2 *O Word of God Incarnate* MUNICH
***The church from you, dear Savior, received this gift divine;
and still that light is lifted on all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through.
amid the rocks and quick-sands still, guides, O Christ to you.***

HT LESSON Isaiah 49: 1 – 7 Pew Bible P.592
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 40 Hymn 651 *I Waited Patiently for God* LEWIS-TOWN

NT LESSON 1 Corinthians 1: 1 – 9 Pew Bible P.926
Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle. People: **Praise be to You, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL LESSON John 1: 29 – 42 Pew Bible P.862
Pastor: The Gospel of Our Lord. People: **Glory to You, O Christ!**

**CANTICLE 288 *Spirit of the Living God* LIVING GOD
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (x2)
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

THE MESSAGE *Altar Pieces* PASTOR JOHN

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN SONG
HYMN 442 *Just As I Am, without One Plea* WOODWORTH

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 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, we recognize that we have been blessed with great abundance. In offering these gifts, may we be strengthened to proclaim your faithfulness and your salvation this day and always. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Sending

**HYMN 518 *Your Only Son, Lamb of God* LAMB OF GOD

**THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

⊕ -- The Call to Worship (adapted) was written by the late Rev. Bruce Prewer. The Prayer of Confession is by the Rev. Stephen Fearing.

⊕ This is the Ghent Altarpiece (at right) in the Cathedral of St. Bavo. The detail on the front cover is found in the altarpiece circled in yellow. When the altarpiece was restored in 2020, the eyes of the mystic lamb (of God) upon the throne (as originally painted by the Van Eyck brothers) display a humanized quality that has unnerved modern conservators. But given that the referent is both Divine and human in the person of Jesus Christ, we shouldn't wonder about the artists' motives.



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

Wait! Don't Go Yet! Join us for conversation and light snacks in the Sanctuary right after the service. Thanks to *Dorothy & Don Wallace* for hosting today! *Regular fellowship downstairs returns February 1st.*

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

ABBE Group Meeting: The next meeting to discuss Niall Williams', *This Is Happiness* will be on January 22, 2026, at 11:30 AM – Please read through Chapter 22.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, February 1, 2025 – Corporation & Ecclesiastical Reports presented, plus Election of Elder Slate.

February 18: Ash Wednesday Worship – Butler Area Presbyterians at TBD 7:00 PM.



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

Please Pray for:

The Family of the Rev. William Jamieson, mourning his death on January 6. It was not long ago that his beloved wife, Jenn, preceded him.

Jan Thompson & Family, Gina Loebell's former co-worker, as daughter Donna had a major stroke, she is currently in AGH.

Cheri White, an 87 year-old inactive member of the church, who has anxiety about a move to assisted living her family is wanting for her.

Alene Campbell, lone Mathias' mother, is out of the hospital!

Danielle, Lynn Deluga's neighbor, experiencing health issues with pregnancy.

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.

1 Corinthians 1: 4 – 7

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

Word List

STRENGTHENED CORINTHIANS TESTIMONY SPIRITUAL REVEALING
KNOWLEDGE ENRICHED LACKING BECAUSE THANKS SPEECH CHRIST
ALWAYS JESUS GRACE GIVEN EVERY AMONG WAIT THAT NRSV LORD
KIND JUST HAVE GIFT BEEN YOU OUR NOT HIM HAS GOD FOR ARE
ANY AND SO MY

(1 Corinthians 1:4-7) I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, (5) for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- (6) just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- (7) so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NRSV)