

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)



"Doubting Thomas," by Giovanni Serodine (1600 – 1630), 1625-30,
Oil on canvas, The National Museum in Warsaw, Poland †

Eastertide II

April 12, 2026, 11:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Ann Morrison

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

Guest Musician: Ione Mathias

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

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: Thomas said:

People: **“Unless I see the mark of the nails and put my hand in his side, I will not believe.”**

Pastor: We are often skeptical people, driven by our senses, relying on that which we can hear, see or prove.

People: **Our Lord asks us to see the invisible, to trust in the spirit, to have faith. Lord, give us faith!**

Pastor: Sometimes we get carried away by our emotions, by wishful thinking and by popular trends that pull us in.

People: **Lord, help us to be bold in our beliefs, but also careful as Thomas was. Move us beyond mere trust in ordinary things and open our eyes for spiritual realities.**

Pastor: Jesus said: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

People: **Amen. We are here to worship God!**

** OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 255

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

O FILII ET FILIAE

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION ☩

God of empty tombs and empty people: when we hesitate to speak of your hope, forgive us, and give us voice. When we find it difficult to love another, forgive us, and give us new compassion. When we want to stand with the high and mighty, forgive us, and put us next to the poor and oppressed. When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts, forgive us, and send us out to share your grace. When we cannot believe your Word of new life, forgive us, and fill us with your joy.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter.
Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults, and gifts us with grace and hope.

Christ comes, to fill us with peace, that we may proclaim the good news of mercy and forgiveness.

People: **Thanks be to God. Christ has come to us. Alleluia!**

**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: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. To this peace we were called as members of a single body. 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 2: 14a, 22 – 32

Pew Bible P.885

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

PSALM 16 HYMN 810 *When in the Night I Meditate*

ST FLAVIAN

NT LESSON 1 Peter 1: 3 – 9

Pew Bible P.983

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

**GOSPEL LESSON John 20: 19 – 31

Pew Bible P.883

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

Thomas' Twin

PASTOR JOHN

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born
of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he
descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and
sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the
quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace ~ Barnard

**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.***

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION ☩

**Forgiving God, everything we receive is a gift of your love. Following your call, we
return to you a portion of what we have received. Let it become food for those who are
hungry, blessings for those who need care, and good news for all people. We give of
ourselves for your glory. Amen.**

The Sending

**HYMN 256

These Things Did Thomas Count as Real

JUDAS MACCABEUS

**THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

***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

✦ -- *The Cover of today's bulletin is by Giovanni Serodine (Italian, Swiss born, 1600 – 1630). Like many of his contemporaries in the early Baroque period, he, too, was influenced by the greatest of the early Baroque artists, Caravaggio. Indeed the composition of this painting of Thomas meeting Jesus in the upper room eight days after Easter is close on the heels of Caravaggio's masterpiece. The clothing and colors are different, but the grouping of the disciples are the same as Jesus takes Thomas' hand and guides him to the spear wound in his side. Caravaggio's use of strong tenebrism – the play of light and shadow – added to the Counter-Reformation style of more! The moment is one of high drama and Serodine's use of the strong contrasts of light and shadow enhance the scene depicted.*

✦ -- *The Confession and Assurance of Pardon were written by the Rev. Thom Shuman at Lectionary Liturgies. The Prayer of Dedication is submitted by the Rev. Nathan Williams, Covenant Presbyterian Church; Des Moines, IA.*

Church Announcements

Please Note: Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to *the Wallace-Beatty Team* for hosting today.

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

ABBE: Adult Brown-Bag Education: The group will meet on Thu. April 16 2026, at 11:30 AM

Lighthouse Item of the Month: APRIL – Pasta

Worship Accompanists Needed! May 10, 17, 24, 31 Piano, Organ, Any Instrument OK! See Church Administrator ASAP.

Music Day: All members, friends, and choir college students: April 26 is music day! Please offer a solo vocal or instrumental, a small group, or accompany a hymn or service music for us. See Brian Graff to Coordinate.



Please Pray for:

Nancy Blewett and her Family, on the passing of **Patriarch David**, who entered the Church Triumphant early Easter Sunday;

Noah Reefer, John & Mary's seventh Grandson born this week

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

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, is now in rehab (Passavant in Zelienople) after leg surgery from a recent fall;

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;

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;

Pam Patterson, residing 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;

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.