

# Covenant Presbyterian Church

230 E. Jefferson St. Butler, PA

## Advent II

December 4, 2022

Pastor: Rev. John C.R. Silbert

Worship Leader: Rev. Bob Mathias

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 89 *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE ~ The Candle of Hope

**Elders Ann & Lars Morrison**

*God's promise of hope is for all people;*

*Together, we anticipate the day of his coming.*

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Elder Ann: 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 peace, This second candle calls us to hope!

Elder Lars: Hear this blessing from Apostle Paul's Letter to the Romans: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Let the light of this candle shine brightly in our lives, reminding us to live in hope! And let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Congregation: **Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.**

#### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

VENI EMMANUEL

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

#### INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION †

**Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light; we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again. Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kingdom. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen.**

#### A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Though our sins are many, God's mercy is great. Though our vision is dim, the coming of the Lord is at hand. Though our hope is feeble, God's promises stand forever. Friends, believe in and proclaim the good news of the gospel:

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

\*\*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.2 *Savior of the Nations Come* NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND  
***From the Godhead forth you came, And return unto the same,  
Captive leading death and hell. High the song of triumph swell!***

OT LESSON      Isaiah 11: 1 – 10

*Pew Bible P.558*

Leader: This, is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 72      Hymn 149 *All Hail to God's Anointed*

ROCKPORT

NT LESSON      Romans 15: 4 – 13

*Pew Bible P.924*

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

People: **Praise be to You, O Lord!**

\*\*GOSPEL READING Matthew 3: 1 - 12

*Pew Bible P.784*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Glory to You, O Christ!**

\*\*CANTICLE 84 v.2 *Creator of the Stars at Night* CONDITUR ALME SIDERUM

***When the old world drew on toward night,  
you came; but not in splendor bright,  
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.***

SERMON *After the Smoke Has Cleared* PASTOR JOHN

SERMON RESPONSE 108 v.3 *Of the Father's Love Begotten* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

***O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,  
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore! Amen.***

\*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*A 20th century South African creed an affirmation based in Isaiah 11*✠

**Jesus has taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's Kingdom. We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice and love will triumph in the end, and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day 'all tears will be wiped away' and 'the lamb will lie down with the lion.' True peace and true reconciliation are not only desirable, they are assured and guaranteed. This is our faith, and our hope. 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 *Prepare the Way* ~ Price

*Prepare the way, O Zion, Your Christ is drawing near!*

*Let every hill and valley A level way appear.*

*Greet One who comes in glory, Foretold in sacred story.*

*O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.*

*Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above.*

*His rule is peace and freedom, And justice, truth, and love.*

*Lift high your praise resounding, For grace an joy abounding.*

*O blest is Christ that came, in God's most holy name.*

*Fling wide your gates, O Zion; Your Savior's rule embrace.*

*And tidings of salvation Proclaim in every place.*

*All lands will bow rejoicing, Their adoration voicing.*

*O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.*

\*\*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 ✠

**Lord of our life, the path to you is straight yet we waiver in our behavior like the Pharisees and Sadducees. Our hopes and dreams often are self-serving and materialistic. We rush through this season buying gifts that we hope will**

convey just the right message. However, you invite us to ask ourselves if we are equally as busy preparing messages that proclaim the Good News to a hurting world. Through giving, remind us again, O God, of the baptismal covenant. This Advent, may we proclaim a message that is exemplified by our generosity, our kindness, and our prayers. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## The Sending

MINUTE FOR MISSION      *Christmas Joy Offering*      GINA LOEBELL

\*\*HYMN 360      *Christ Is Coming!*      UNSER HERRSCHER

\*\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

✠ *Worship Notes: The Prayer of Confession is from Ministry Matters, the Affirmation of Faith is from the Third World Solidarity Day, a publication of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, 1987; and the Prayer of Dedication is written by David S. Bell.*

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

Fellowship Hour: Thank you to Elaine Nucci for hosting today.

**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](mailto:covenantoffice@zoominternet.net) or the Prayer Hotline email [covenantprayers@zoominternet.net](mailto:covenantprayers@zoominternet.net).

**Alene Campbell and Don Campbell**, lone's mother and uncle, recovering from an automobile accident last Sunday.

**Brian Graff and family**, as they grieve the passing of his grandfather, **Howard Langston**, last week.

**Pastor Jim and family**, as Pastor Jim continues to heal from a knee infection and son, **Danny**, has to wear a leg brace.

**Bonnie McFarland**, friend of Ann Morrison, whose husband, **Dale**, died suddenly last week.

**Andrew P. (& Kim)**, friends of Nancy Rice, as Andrew heals from major foot surgery this week.

**Pam Patterson**, ongoing rehabilitation at Concordia Cabot.

**Norman Howarth**, friend of Pastor John and Elaine, beginning radiation treatments following oral cancer surgery.

**Bonnie (Silbert) Readett**, sister of Pastor John, feeling better with therapy for a fractured clavicle and is now able to drive again!

**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

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