

# 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)



*"Sermon on the Mount and the Healing of the Lepers,"* by Cosimo Rosselli (1439-1507)  
Fresco (1481-82), Sistine Chapel, Vatican Palace, Vatican State ☩

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

**February 1, 2026, 11:00 AM**

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Elaine Nucci

Musician: Dominico Reyes

## ~ Order of Worship ~

\*\* = Please stand, as able

### The Gathering

PRELUDE & TIME OF CENTERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Happy are we  
People: **when our treasures cannot be quantified.**  
Pastor: Happy are we  
People: **when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.**  
Pastor: Happy are we  
People: **when our pain is held in the balm of love.**  
Pastor: Happy are we  
People: **when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.**  
Pastor: Happy are we in the presence of the Holy!  
Pastor: **Let us worship God!**

\*\* OPENING PRAYER

\*\*OPENING HYMN 55      *Come like Driving Wind, O God*      NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER CONFESSION

**God of grace and mercy, You create a new order for our lives: Service before success, Faith before knowledge, Partnership over independence, The cross over the crown. Forgive us when we fall into the patterns of this world, Rejecting your call through our action or inaction. Forgive us, God, and move us to see the world through the lens of your great love. Forgive us, God, and grant us peace.**

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: God forgives us of our sins,  
People: **Not because we are righteous, but because God is good.**  
Pastor: God calls us to try again,  
People: **Not because we are strong, but because God will help us.**  
Pastor: God calls us as disciples,  
People: **Not because we are worthy, but because we are loved.**

Pastor: God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Through the love of God in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*\*CONFESSION RESPONSE 581** *Glory Be to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorrex)

***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: A harvest of righteousness is sewn in peace for those who make peace.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

## **The Word**

**\*\*ILLUMINATION 459 v.1**

*O Word of God Incarnate*

MUNICH

***O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.***

HT LESSON

Micah 6: 1 – 8

*Pew Bible P.757*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 15

Hymn 419

*Lord, Who May Dwell within Your House*

RIDGEMOOR

NT LESSON

1 Corinthians 1: 18 – 31

*Pew Bible P.926*

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

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

**\*\*GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 5: 1 – 12

*Pew Bible P.785*

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

*The Catalogue of Christian Character*

PASTOR JOHN

**\*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Nicene Creed (Ecumenical)*

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, 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 on 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 worshipped 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 OFFERINGS & GIFTS

OFFERTORY

**\*\*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.***

**\*\*THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S 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 delivered us from captivity and made us your people. You ask us not for burnt offerings, or rivers of precious oil, but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Congregation: *Holy, Holy, Holy (Hymn 552)*

LAND OF REST

***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, hosanna in the highest.***

Celebrant: Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: He taught us what it means to be truly blessed—to be merciful and meek, peaceful and pure in heart—to such as these the kingdom of heaven belongs. 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.

Teach us the wisdom of the cross, the message of Christ crucified. Let the weak be lifted up, and the mighty be made humble, so that we may boast in nothing other than the grace of our Lord.

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** *Come Forward*

**\*\*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: **We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have fed us with your mercy and poured out your Spirit in this place. Continue to nourish and fill us each day, that we may live as your beloved people; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Sending

\*\*HYMN 172

*Blest Are They*

BLEST ARE THEY

\*\*THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

✠ The fresco displayed on the front cover is an interpretation of the Passages in Matthew concerning the Sermon on the Mount by High Renaissance artist, Cosimo Rosselli. Jesus is preaching to crowds grouped in various places that mimic the prevailing landscapes, enabling us to take in the many people and the scope of the painting. Several points in time are seen. Jesus preaches standing on the mount at left-center; behind and up behind at right-center, Jesus and his disciples are coming down from the mountain later on; at the lower right, Jesus reaches out to heal the leper on the right which happens immediately after the sermon in Matthew 8. Art critique Lyrica Taylor notes: *The use of both imagined ancient and contemporary clothing [among the people present], as well as the incorporation of an Italian town on the left and a church at the top of the mountain, thus incorporate past and present in the work, and underscore that Christ's authority and teaching span both time and location.*

✠ The Call to Worship (adapted) was written by Katherine Hawker (2006), and was posted on Liturgy Outside. <http://liturgyoutside.net/beatitudes.pdf>

### 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 food in Fellowship Hall right after the service. Thanks to *The Session* for hosting today!

Donations: "Tithely" at [covenantbutler.org](http://covenantbutler.org) or "Tithely" Smartphone App

ABBE Group Meeting: The next meeting to discuss Niall Williams', *This Is Happiness* will be on February 5, 2026, at 11:30 AM – Please read through the end of the book (Chapter 44).

Annual Congregational Meeting: TODAY – Corporation & Ecclesiastical Reports presented, plus Election of Elder Slate. All may attend, but only active list members may vote.

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

February 15: Noisy Offering of Loose Change & Transfiguration Sunday



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:

**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, after evaluation, it's determined she does not need to go to assisted living, a relief for her.

**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.

**All communities affected by Winter Storm Fern**, especially those who have lost power due to heavy ice accretion.

## Matthew 5: 3 – 11

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

### Word List

RIGHTEOUSNESS PEACEMAKERS PERSECUTED COMFORTED MERCIFUL CHILDREN  
RECEIVE MATTHEW KINGDOM INHERIT FALSELY BLESSED AGAINST ACCOUNT THIRST  
THEIRS SPIRIT REVILE PEOPLE HUNGER HEAVEN FILLED CALLED UTTER THOSE  
MOURN MERCY KINDS HEART EARTH WILL WHEN THEY SAKE PURE POOR NRSV  
MEEK YOU WHO SEE GOD ARE AND ON MY IS BE

*(Matthew 5:3-11) "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (4) "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (5) "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. (6) "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. (7) "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. (8) "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (9) "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (10) "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. (NRSV)*