

Covenant Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

724-287-7731 covenantoffice@zoominternet.net

Worship with us on YouTube: CovenantTV1813

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE *I Will Enter Hi Gates with This IS the Day* ~ Hayes

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We come to God, our holy shepherd, as we come to a green meadow.

People: **God prepares a place for us, and we give glory in God's presence.**

Pastor: How excellent is this dwelling place under the eyes of God's care.

People: **We turn to God in joy. Our good shepherd provides for all our needs.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

**OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN B417 (See Insert) *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* REGENT SQUARE

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION ☩

You long to fill us with your comfort and peace, Still Waters of Grace, but we continue to take on more anxiety, more worry, more fear. You would comfort us in the gentleness of your hope, but we welcome the embrace of a world spinning more and more out of control. You would feed us with more than we need, but we continue to hunger for the sweet sensations offered to us by temptation. You keep your promises and offer us forgiveness and mercy all the days of our life.

May we keep our eyes focused on the path you have shaped for us; may



"Ravine," 1889, by Vincent Van Gogh (Dutch, 1853-1890),
Oil on canvas, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA. ☩

Eastertide IV: Good Shepherd Sunday April 21, 2024

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

Worship Leader: Elder Gina Loebell

Music Director: Dominico Reyes

Broadcast TV Producer: Brian F. Graff, C.P.

we listen to the call of the Good Shepherd who leads us into your joy, that kingdom prepared for us by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: This is the good news: wherever we are, God is with us; whoever we are, God forgives us, and offers us new life.

People: **Surely goodness and mercy are the companions we have been longing for, faithful friends as we continue our journey as God's people. Amen.**

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

People: **And also with you!**

THE NOISY OFFERING OF LOOSE CHANGE

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 4: 5 – 12 *Pew Bible P.887*

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Acts of the Apostles.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 23 Hymn 803 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* RESIGNATION

NT LESSON 1 John 3: 16 – 24 *Pew Bible P.990-991*

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

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

**GOSPEL LESSON John 10: 11 – 18 *Pew Bible P.872-873*

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**CANTICLE 239 v.3,4 *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing* GELOBT SEI GOTT

***Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

MESSAGE *Shasta & the Fellow Traveler* PASTOR JOHN

RESPONSE 583 *Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen* MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION 1 (Haugen)

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. (x2)

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the late Bruce D. Prewer, 2002 ☩

I believe I need a shepherd. Because I am sometimes timid and other times overconfident, because I often don't know the best path yet pretend I do, because I rush into dead ends or lead others into hazardous places, because my brightest ideas are seamed with darkness, because the things I crave may not be what is good for me, I need a shepherd.

I believe in Jesus, the best possible shepherd; his wisdom leads me to the best opportunities, his word comforts me when I'm anxious or afraid, his

arm steadies me when I feel weary and heavy-laden, his wounded body displays the cost of my rescue. I believe in Jesus, the best possible shepherd. I believe that I do not find him but he finds me, that I under his care by virtue of sheer grace, the love he gives me is to be shared with others, that he treasures my name and prepares a place for me, that his fold transfixes earth and heaven.

I trust Jesus, the good shepherd. 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 *In Christ Alone* ~ Hayes

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song.

This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.

My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe!

The gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.

'Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;

for ev'ry sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.

Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.

For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.

*From life's first cry it final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I stand.*

Her in the pow'r of Christ I stand!

**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 ☩

God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.

The Sending

**HYMN 187 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* BRADBURY

**THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE *Because He Lives* ~ Thornquist

☩ Bulletin Cover Art: Vincent Van Gogh (Dutch, 1853-1890) painted "Ravine" in the autumn of 1889. At the time, Van Gogh was in the middle of a year-long stay at the Saint Paul Asylum in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, located in Southern France. He committed himself to the asylum seeking help through this very turbulent period in his life; despite this, his time there was also a time of great activity as a painter. Looking out of a window in his room led him to paint the canvas that is, perhaps, his best known -- "Starry Night." The painting, "Ravine," was one Paul Gauguin, an artist-friend, liked very much. Look closely near the center of the painting -- in a letter to Van Gogh's brother, Theo, Gauguin

remarked, “Two travelers, very small, seem to be climbing there in search of the unknown.” As we walk the paths of righteousness and through the valley of the shadows of death, the 23rd Psalm, assures us of God’s presence, leading us through.

✦ The Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon are from the Rev. Thom Shuman at Lectionary Liturgies. The Prayer of Dedication is by Mary Petrina Boyd, and posted on Ministry Matters. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>. The Affirmation of Faith was written by the late Rev. Bruce D. Prewer in 2002 for Shepherd’s Sunday. Bruce was a minister in the Uniting Church of Australia from 1955 – 2018.

Wait...Don’t Go Yet! All are welcome to stay, socialize and enjoy food with us after the service. Thanks to the Morrison’s for hosting today. For future dates, a host sign-up sheet is in the Narthex outside the office.

Next Week at Covenant:
April 28
Eastertide V: Choir & Musician Appreciation Day
9:50 AM Seeker’s Class with Prayer Circle
11:00 AM Worship
with the Minute for Mission

Lighthouse Item of the Month: **APRIL = Canned Soup**

Amateur Singers Needed: Join us in thanking the choir as we sing a special hymn for them. The “Thank You Choir” is looking for about 8 people to sing one song for April 28th’s worship service. If you sang with our Christmas Carolers, then you are perfect for this! Please see Brian G if you will participate. We will have one short rehearsal at 10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall on April 28. Remember, we’re not perfect or professional, but God will love it anyways!

Donations: Other than the offering plate

*Mail check to 107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001-2429

*Credit/Debit in church office

*Coming soon: A new online donation system.

If you currently have a recurring donation on Vanco Payments either through our website or the phone app, please cancel the recurring payment, until we have a new system online. Thank You!

Celebrations:

April 21 Mary Reefer’s Birthday

April 26 Lind Peters’ Birthday

From the Treasurer: **March Financial Snapshot**

Total Budgeted Expenses	\$12,297
Total Budgeted Income minus Reserves	\$8,257
Taken from Reserve Funds to meet expenses	\$4,041
17 – 2024 Pledges received	\$52,000

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

Please pray for:

Virginia Lokovich and family in the loss of her youngest son, Gary, after a long illness, in Ozark, MO;

Rosemary Latella, Elaine Nucci’s godmother, of Utica, NY, recovering from a broken pelvis;



Art Hagg, nephew-in-law of Betty Butler, being treated for a foot problem;

David Johnston, related to Betty Butler, is being treated for broken vertebrae in his back;

Luanne and Family, known to Linda Peters, grieving the loss of her husband and their father;

Lauren Loebell, awaiting results from testing for body pain & discomfort;

Service-related workers, known to Sir Lars, on mission-related efforts in the Ukraine;

Ann Morrison, for discernment and direction for her next steps in life & work;

Sarah Jane Milliron, daughter of Lars and Ann Morrison for discernment in work-related concerns;

Kathy, friend of Dr. John & Mary Reefer, coming to grips with quadriplegia as a result of a car accident last fall;

Callie, Audrey Carlson's granddaughter, is seeking medical benefit support for a needed MRI procedure as further testing for her sleep disorder;

Andrew Wehr, Elaine Nucci's son, seeing several doctors in the coming weeks;

Nate and Riley; known to the Silberts, for life direction & help w/ depression;

Nicholas, 17-year old grandson of a neighbor to Bill & Nancy Rice, dealing with a stage four cancer diagnosis;

Mason Martin, Karns City high football player, is hoping to be sent home at the end of this month and according to his dad, Denny, is showing slight improvement every day;

Pam Patterson, at Concordia at Cabot.

We also pray for the church in every place; for leaders and people in every land, but especially in our country; for peace & justice throughout the world; for all those who hunger & thirst; for all those who are ailing & in need of healing; for those we have in our hearts today... **God of grace, hear our prayers.**

Psalm 23

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

Word List

OVERFLOWS SHEPHERD RESTORES PRESENCE PASTURES
GOODNESS THROUGH PREPARE ENEMIES DARKEST COMFORT
WATERS VALLEY THOUGH SURELY PSALMS FOLLOW BESIDE
BEFORE ANOINT WHOLE TABLE STILL STAFF SHALL RIGHT
PATHS MERCY MAKES LEADS HOUSE GREEN DWELL YOUR
WITH WANT WALK THEY SOUL SAKE NAME LORD LONG LIFE
HEAD FEAR EVIL EVEN DOWN DAYS ROD OIL NOT LIE HIS
CUP AND MY