

*Covenant Presbyterian Church
Butler, Pennsylvania*



January 7, 2018

Baptism of the Lord

“How can water do such great things? Indeed the water does not do it, but the Word of God, which is with and alongside the water, and faith, which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is plain water and not a baptism, but with the Word of God it is a baptism, this is...a bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit.”
-- Martin Luther (1483 – 1546)

Church Office Phone: 724-287-7731
Website: <http://covenantbutler.org>
Social Media: [facebook.com/covenant230](https://www.facebook.com/covenant230)

Order of Service for Worship

January 7, 2018

Eleven O'clock, A.M.

With Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Guest Minister: Rev. Alan Adams, Executive Presbyter
Liturgist Today: Nancy Blewett
Guest Musician: Alison Carey

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE ~ ALL ARE WELCOME HERE !

Even as the world seeks to judge or divide us according to our economic, racial and ethnic groups, ages, gender, abilities, preferences, politics and theological positions, we believe that there should be no such division.

Our congregation is strengthened through difference and diversity, and in the name of our Lord, we welcome all who come seeking refuge and healing from condemnation, prejudice and discrimination.

PRELUDE *Song of the North* Edward Grieg

CHORAL INTROIT *Surely the Lord Is In This Place* Robert Lau

*Surely the Lord is in this place.
This is none other than the house of God,
and this is the gate, the gate of heaven.*

—Genesis 28:16, 17

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 68

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 29 (*Pew Bible OT p. 438*)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Because temptation is woven into the fabric of our lives, and we know the weariness of forty days in the desert, and the beckoning power of sweet fruit, and the vain promises of the world, we need you, God. Forgive us, we pray.

Because we see the broken before the whole, and the half empty cup, and the unfinished task, and the thirst in freedom's quest, we need you, God. Forgive us, we pray.

Because we trust in what we can see and we are blinded by our prejudices; because we do not even know what we do not know, we need you, God. Forgive us, we pray.

Because you came among us, and breathed life into our hollow souls, and healed our pain and loved us to the end, we approach with penitent hearts and cast our sin upon you, Loving Lord.

Forgive us, and make us whole again. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: God so loved the world that he sent his only Son – not to condemn the world, but so the world through him might be saved! In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone!

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Contemporary Creed

We believe in God, Creator and Lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ, the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to a land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who plants the seeds of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God. In that day those who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfillment of God's desire.

For the inbreaking of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus Come!

*GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

A MINUTE FOR MISSION

Ann Morrison

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

John Rutter

*God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.*

*God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in mine heart and in my thinking.
God be at my end and in my departing.*

— Words from the Sarum Primer

FIRST LESSON Jeremiah 29: 11-14 (*Pew Bible OT p. 639*)

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL READINGS

Matthew 25: 31-40 (*Pew Bible NT p. 807*)

Matthew 28: 16-20 (*Pew Bible NT p. 812*)

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: **Glory to You, O Christ.**

*CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE ~ Hymn #322

LIVING GOD

**Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.**

—Trans. and para. John Mason Neale

SERMON

“THE TENACITY OF FAITH”

Rev. Alan Adams

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

CHORAL AMEN

Three-fold Amen

Danish

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Suite No. 1 in G Major - “Prelude”* J. S. Bach

Jennie Benson, Viola

*THE DOXOLOGY #592

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 UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, through all the generations of this church, in all the seasons of our lives, you have loved us, sought us, and claimed us as your own.

You have blessed us so that we ourselves may be a blessing to others.

Now accept these our gifts and grant us grace, that in everything we may yield our wills and our works unto you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN #505

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

ST. FLAVIAN

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION (Come Forward)

*LITANY FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: **And all that is within me, bless His Holy Name!**

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

People: **And forget not all His benefits.**

Pastor: Let us pray together:

All: **Thanks be to you, O God, for this sacrament of bread and cup; for the joy of pardon, the birth of new hope, the cleansing of your Holy Spirit, and your peace which passes all understanding. Keep us in your love, we pray, that we may walk before you all the days of our lives, with confidence as children of light.**

Nourished now by the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation, give us willing hands and open hearts to work for the building of your kingdom, now and always. Amen.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #63 *As with Gladness Men of Old* DIX

*THE BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *A Clare Benediction* John Rutter

*May the Lord show his mercy upon you;
may the light of his presence be your guide:
May he guard you and uphold you:
may his spirit be ever by your side.
When you sleep, may his angels watch over you;
when you wake, may he fill you with his grace:
May you love him and serve him all your days,
Then in heaven may you see his face.*

*A TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Leader: Brothers and Sisters in Christ –Go now into the world;
Offer to all who ask an account of the hope that is within
you. Remember your baptism and live in the joy of your
adoption into the family of God.
Now let us go in peace, and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*POSTLUDE *Andante* Ludwig van Beethoven

* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY BY Connie Brown.

JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP !

...immediately following worship each
Sunday. Please join us for conversation (and
food!) downstairs in the Assembly Room.



Hosting today:

“Old Mother Hubbard” (for the 3rd week in a row)

Volunteers needed to host Fellowship Hour!



We Welcome the Rev. Alan Adams as guest preacher for our worship service this morning.

Rev. Adams is the Executive-Presbyter of the Beaver-Butler Presbytery.

*Brian Graff will preach next Sunday, January 14th during the 11am worship service.

Guest Musician



Alison Carey

Guest Pianist

Alison Carey graduated from Westminster College with a degree in Music education in 1993. She has been working in the Karns City Area School District for 24 years as a music teacher. She currently teaches fifth and sixth grade band and music directs for the KC High School musicals. Alison is active in the Butler community through her work with the Butler Musical Theater Guild and the Butler Little Theater. She resides in Butler with her husband, Jeff.



Special thanks to...

Jennie Benson

Jennie who sings soprano in the Covenant Choir played the viola solo at the Offertory during this morning's worship service.

The People for Peace

**This Thursday, January 11th
@ 11AM ~ Assembly Room**



Class is held 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month.

***A new study for the new year will be selected
for discussion this Thursday.***

The class will also complete the final chapter (*Chapter 11*) of their previous study, *The Evolution of Faith: How God is Creating a Better Christianity* by Philip Gulley—which had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

This Class is open to everyone!

Nancy Rice, *Class Convener*

Questions? . . . See or contact Nancy @ 724-256-5366

~ Lesson materials will be made available each class period
for those who do not wish to purchase the book. ~

Don't Forget to Bring Your Lunch !



Butler Little Theater
1 Howard Street
Butler, PA

Presents

**OTHER PEOPLE'S
MONEY**

*A drama by Jerry Sterner
Directed by Don Shearer*

January 19-21; 23-27

Curtain Times:

Fridays & Saturdays – 8:00pm

Sunday – 2:30pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – 7:30pm

For reservations:

*Call 724-287-6781 **or**
online at bltgroup.org*

*Produced by Amy Cannard
Soprano in the Covenant Choir!*



Happy Birthday!

Rev. Bob Mathias (*January 12*)

Mika Marie Hobaugh (*8th Birthday, January 14*)

--Donna Hobaugh's great grandchild

Prayer Concerns

Helen Ferguson ~ fell at home last week; no broken bones, just a few bruises on the arm, leg and hands; receiving daily care from visiting nurses

Bev Antis ~ May the melody and harmony of God's comfort bring peace to your soul and strengthen you on your journey.

Allen Kitchen (husband of Rev. Mary Kitchen) ~ recuperating at home from surgery on December 29th at Cleveland Clinic to remove a tumor on his kidney

Diane Dancik ~ friend of Mary Reefer who has been diagnosed with cancer which has spread to her liver and bowels

Donna Hobaugh ~ keep her in prayer; Donna has Alzheimers and lives at 100 Newhaven Lane, Rm. 6-B

PRAYER CORDON: Tuesdays at 12 noon in the Church Library.
To request prayer, contact Virginia at 724-287-3920.

In Sympathy

The love, prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family of Rev. Thomas D. Tuft, age 99, of Franciscan Manor-Beaver County, who passed away on December 21, 2017. He was born on October 15, 1918.

Rev. Tuft retired from Broadway United Presbyterian Church in East McKeesport and was a US Navy veteran having served in WWII. He was preceded in death by his wife, Irena (Lawson) Tuft in 2011, a daughter Susan Tuft and a brother Russell Tuft. Rev Tuft leaves behind four sons, two daughters, 16 grandchildren and many loving great grandchildren. A funeral service was held on December 28, 2017 at Mt. Carmel Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Aliquippa, PA. Private interment in Mt. Carmel Church Cemetery in Hopewell Twp.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Dear Church Family,

Karen and I cannot find the words to thank you enough for the many wonderful years and treasured memories which we have enjoyed during my time as your pastor. It is, as I have said many times, a true privilege to shepherd such a fine Christian congregation. Be assured that even though I cannot relate to you officially any longer as “pastor,” there is no reason that friendships cannot endure. We both wish to continue on the basis of “good neighbors” and “caring friends.” Most of all, we thank you for the overwhelming generosity of the retirement purse which was presented to us last Sunday, a true reflection of your esteem and affection.

One thing more I wish to acknowledge: never in all my years of ministry have I worked with such an incredibly talented, friendly and cooperative staff. Thank you to Elsie, Beverly, Lars and Tom for having made my job so easy and for personal friendship that means more than you can ever know. God bless you (until we meet again, either "here" or "there" in God's great Kingdom of Peace.) It's been less "work" and more "fun" than I could have ever imagined when I came to Covenant back in 2004. You're the greatest!

As the apostle Paul wrote to one of his favorite churches, “I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly” (Ephesians 1:16). God will guide you forward, even as he has done since 1813, to his great glory! Blessings!

Pastor Jim & Karen Swanson

Seekers Topical Discussion Class

Sundays @ 9:45 am in the Assembly Room

All are welcome!

~ Refreshments at 9:30 am

Nancy Rice is currently leading the Seekers Class.

