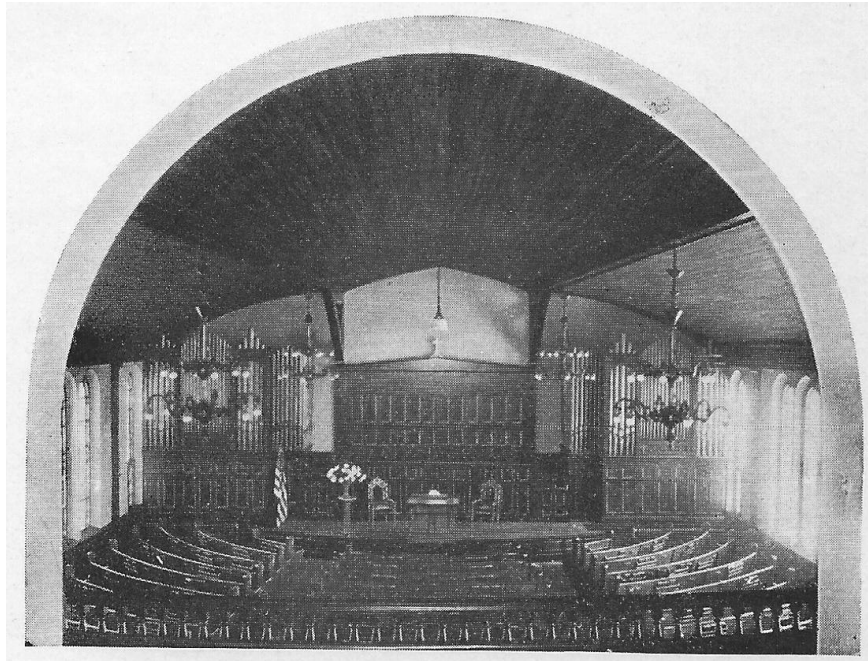


# Covenant Presbyterian Church

A Service of Decommissioning the Church Property  
At 230 East Jefferson Street, Butler, PA



The Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Butler, circa 1924✠

**May 21, 2023, 11AM**

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Ascension Sunday)**

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

Leading in Worship Representing Beaver-Butler Presbytery (BBP):

Elder Carolyn Paulsen, Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Tom Harmon, Exec. Presbyter,

& Elder Andrew Why, Chairperson of the Coordinating Team

Participant: Ann Morrison; Bagpiper: Sir Lars Morrison

Music Director: Steven Yealy

Broadcast TV Producer: Brian F. Graff

## ~ Order of Service ~

\*\* = Please stand, as able

### The Gathering

PRELUDE *Air on Aurelia ~ Winter*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE Elder Carolyn Paulsen, Moderator of BBP

As we gather for worship,  
let us acknowledge with solemn joy God's gift of this place,  
remembering with gratitude all who have worshiped here,  
the faith professed at this font,  
the gospel proclaimed from this pulpit,  
the assurance received at this table.  
Let us also reaffirm our faith in our sojourning God  
as this building is now made ready for other uses.  
That which we have received from God  
let us now return to God with thanksgiving.

\*\*SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

People: **They shall again live beneath my shadow,  
they shall flourish as a garden;  
they shall blossom like the vine,  
their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon.**

\*\*OPENING HYMN 331 *God of Our Forebears✠*

NATIONAL HYMN

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION✠

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts; cleanse us, we pray thee, from all our offences, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires; that with lowliness and meekness we may draw near to thee, confessing our faults, confiding in thy grace, and finding in thee our refuge and our strength, through Jesus Christ, thy Son. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: As people born of water and the Spirit we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun. God’s grace is poured out upon us day by day. Come to the water and remember your baptism. Be thankful, and live as one who has been raised to new life –

Friends, give voice to this good news:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia!

\*\*RESPONSE 581 Glory Be to the Father GLORIA PATRI (Greateorex)

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: May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

The Word

\*\*ILLUMINATION 240 v.1 & 2 Alleluia! Give Thanks ALLELUAI 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.

OT LESSON Isaiah 43: 18 – 21 Pew Bible P.585-586

Leader: This, is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 90 HYMN 687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past ST. ANNE

NT LESSON 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Pew Bible P.966

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

People: Praise be to You, O Lord!

\*\*GOSPEL LESSON John 15:1-17 Pew Bible P.878

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: Glory to You, O Christ!

\*\*CANTICLE My Spirit Longs for Thee FINGAL

My spirit longs for Thee within my troubled breast, though I unworthy be of so divine a guest. Of so divine a guest unworthy I be, yet has my heart no rest, unless it come from Thee. Unless it come from Thee, in vain I look around; in all that I can see no rest is to be found. No rest is to be found but in Thy blessed love; O let my wish be crowned, and send it from above! Amen.

SERMON Heirs of the Priceless Benefit PASTOR JOHN

SERMON HYMN 761 Called as Partners in Christ’s Service BEECHER

\*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Heidelberg Catechism Q.1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and death – to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

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, GIFTS & THE PENTECOST OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM            *City of God ~ Schutte*  
*Awake from your slumber! Arise from you sleep!*  
*A new day is dawning for all who weep.*  
*The people in darkness have seen a great light.*  
*The Lord of our longong has conquered the night.*

**REFRAIN** *Let us build the city of God. May our tears be turned to dance.*  
*For the Lord, our light and our love, has turned the night into day!*  
*We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.*  
*The one who has loved us has brightened our day.*  
*The Lord of all kindness has called us to be*  
*a light for his people to set their hearts free. **REFRAIN***  
*God is light; in him there is no darkness.*  
*Let us walk in his light, his children, one and all.*  
*O comfort my people; make gentle your words.*

*Proclaim to my city the day of her birth. **REFRAIN***  
*O city of gladness, now lift up your voice!*  
*Proclaim the good tidings that al may rejoice!*

**\*\*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.***

**\*\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good; we give you thanks and praise for how you have moved among us in this place since 1813: for your purpose in creating us as a congregation, for your tender loving mercies and your grace that has sustained us in times of trial, your discipline that has corrected us, your patience that has borne with us, your gifts for ministry and service you have raised up from among us – elders, deacons, pastors, teachers, musicians, missionaries, all willing servants -- and especially for your amazing love that has redeemed us through these years here.

In remembering your manifold blessings to this church through the years in this place, we pray that the Pentecost offering received today will bless those who seek to build up the Body of Christ in ministry and mission among children, youth and young adults – foundations of faith in Christ Jesus for their future.

As we go from this place, to build a new foundation for our future, help us to love you even more, and to be ever thankful for all your gifts by serving you and delighting to do your will where we are going, as we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sending

LITANY OF PRAISE



✦ Service Notes: 1) The cover photo of the church sanctuary is scanned from the book, *Through Succeeding Years: A History of First Presbyterian Church*, by W. Campbell Brandon and The Rev. S. Wilmer Beitler, D.D. written for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church in 1938. The photo is not dated but fits a description of the sanctuary renovation from 1924. 2) The Opening Hymn was originally titled "God of Our Fathers. . ." The committee that put together the *Glory to God* Hymnal changed the title to "God of the Ages. . ." We are striking a mid-point that makes the title inclusive while preserving the historical intentions of the original hymn. 3) The Prayer of Confession today is the same one used in the service at the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gathering on September 4, 1938.

Welcome: To all who visit on this historic day...welcome! A special welcome to the members of the Beaver-Butler Presbytery leadership team; to visiting Butler Area Presbyterians from other churches, and to friends & family of Covenant church. We are glad you joined us today. Please stay for the pot-luck luncheon in the Assembly Room immediately following worship.

Chancel Flowers: The flowers today are given in thanksgiving for Covenant's ministry in this space. We're sorry we can't be with you this morning and are grateful to have been neighbors through the past 200 years!

In Christ's Love, *The Congregation of Saint Andrews*

#### Calendar:

**May 21 – 24 11 am – 3 pm** Packing & Staging items to move to the Trinity campus. Let the church office know when you are coming in.

**May 25 Beginning at 8am** Moving truck day!

*People needed at each end to load & unload.*

Please let the church office know if you are able to be here that day

**May 28** Daily Prayer 11:00 AM @ Covenant, followed by any "Work Crew" needs between here and the Trinity location, and lunch out for anyone interested.

**June 4** Worship 11:00 AM @ Trinity Campus 107 Staley Ave.

**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

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)

**Michael Benson & Family**, known to Bob & Lone Mathias, as he mourns the loss of his brother Brian last week from a heart attack at age 32;

**Marge Fleming**, former colleague of Nancy Rice, grieving the death of her husband;

**The family of Keikei Brockley**, wife of area dentist, Dr. Donald Brockley, as they mourn her loss this week.

**Lars Morrison**, as he concludes a 15-months long project and transitions to a time of rest from that labor;

**Alaistair Yealy**, as he recovers from a broken arm;

**Andrew Weir**, Elaine Nucci's son, recovering from a concussion;

**Brian Graff**, for improving health;

**Alene Campbell**, Lone Mathias' mother, is in the personal care unit of Sugar Creek Nursing and Rehab Services;

**Rev. Larry Thompson and wife, Darcy**, retired acquaintances of Lone Mathias, thanksgiving that Larry is doing much better!

**The Team of the Mercer Co. Emergency Rental Assistance Program** and the **Tenants in Sharon Towers** as food/clothing and relocation efforts are made;

**Anna**, a young woman with serious pulmonary issues is improving, she has been removed from the lung transplant list and is looking to surgery instead;

**Norman and Cheri Haworth**, friends of the Silberts, for healing and wholeness;

**Pam Patterson**, continuing at Concordia Cabot;

**The continuing guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit in Covenant's future as we leave this place and go to our new home on the campus of Trinity Presbyterian Church, 107 Staley Avenue, in Butler!**

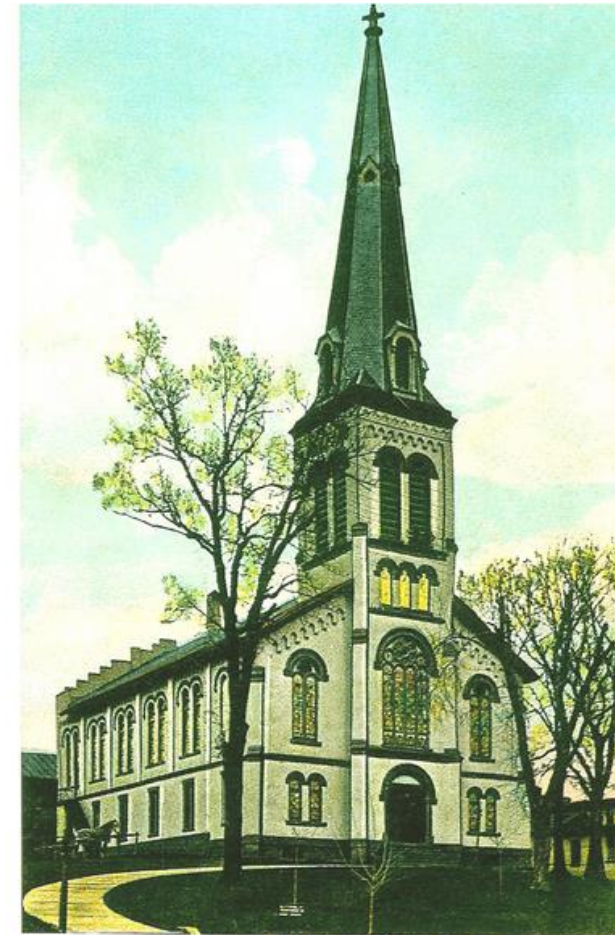
## Psalm 90: 13 - 17

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

### Word List

COMPASSION STEADFAST AFFLICTED SERVANTS MANIFEST GLORIOUS  
CHILDREN SATISFY REJOICE PROSPER MORNING PSALMS YEARS THEIR  
POWER HANDS FAVOR YOUR WORK WITH UPON TURN THAT SEEN  
NRSV MANY MAKE LOVE LORD LONG HAVE GLAD EVIL DAYS MAY LET  
HOW GOD FOR ALL TO BE

*(Psalms 90:13-17 NRSV) Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants!  
(14) Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be  
glad all our days. (15) Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many  
years as we have seen evil. (16) Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your  
glorious power to their children. (17) Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and  
prosper for us the work of our hands-- O prosper the work of our hands!*



First Presbyterian Church, Butler, Pa.