

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OF THE COVENANT

September 6, 2020

10:00 a.m., Facebook LIVE with Communion
www.Facebook.com/FirstCovenantErie/

Fall Series: “Becoming a Matthew 25 Church”

*Welcome! Come, let us worship and share Communion together—apart!
Be sure to gather some form of “bread” and “cup” before today’s service.*

*“Worship” is a verb: Sing. Pray. Read aloud **bolded** responses. Share comments. Stand if you choose, where you see *.*

G A T H E R I N G

Ringing of the Bell Tower Carillon (9:45 a.m.)		Monty Service
Gathering Music	<i>Fireworks Suite (Selections), G. F. Handel</i>	Leslie Weber
Welcome & Announcements		Rev. Britney L. V. Knight
Moment for Ministry	<i>A Different CROP Walk</i>	Derek Sweet
Call to Worship (<i>responsive, please read aloud the bold print</i>)		Rachel Moldovan

We would be perfectly happy if our path were faultless,
if we were always in step with God.

This is my commandment: That you love one another.

God, has given us commandments that we may live as effectively as possible.
With our eyes fixed on doing the right thing, we shall never be put to shame.

You are to love one another in the same way as I have loved you.

O Lord, touch our lips with your saving grace,
that our live may declare your praise!

*Hymn #772

Live Into Hope

(pages 5)

L I S T E N I N G

Reading *Romans 13: 8-14* Seph Kumer

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Children’s Moment Rev. Britney L. V. Knight

Hymn #372

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

(page 6)

¹⁵ “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Sermon

“Being a Matthew 25 Church: Restoration”

Rev. Britney L. V. Knight

C O N F E S S I N G

Time of Silent Confession

By Your Side, Tenth Avenue North

Greg Cooper, Geoff Ginader

Prayer of Confession *(in unison)*

Rev. Chris Weichman

Merciful God,

You call us to turn away from behaviors and attitudes that belong to the darkness,
to live honest and transparent lives as children of the light.

We confess the times when we have failed,

giving in to our darker thoughts and desires;
and acting in ways that did not bring honor to Your name.

Lord, in Your mercy,

forgive us. Teach us how to live as children of the light.

You call us love one another,

to put the needs and interests of those around us above our own;
to love others as deeply as we have been loved by You.

We confess the times when we have failed,

allowing our own desires and interests to take precedence over the needs of others.

Lord, in Your mercy,

forgive us. Teach us how to love as we have been loved.

You call us to deal honorably with one another,

even those who have hurt or offended us;
to work through our disagreements with love and integrity,
and so to build up the Body of Christ.

We confess the times when we have failed,

finding it easier to simply walk away from difficult conversations,
or to talk behind people’s backs rather than to their faces.

Lord, in Your mercy,

forgive us. Teach us how to live with love and integrity.

Give us hunger to know You more,

so that we may do Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your name.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Chris Weichman

*Passing of the Peace *(responsive, please read aloud the bold print)*

Rev. Chris Weichman

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Share greetings of Christ’s peace by submitting a comment on the Facebook livestream.

How will you live out the Peace of Christ you have shared, and was shared with you, in the coming week? (2)

T H E L O R D ' S S U P P E R

*Hymn #529

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

(page 7)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*responsive, please read aloud the bold print*)

Rev. Britney L. V. Knight

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Rev. Britney L. V. Knight

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Say, "The body of Christ, given for you." to each other as you share the bread.

Say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." To each other as you share the cup

Communion Music

Just As I Am, Dale Wood

Leslie Weber

Prayer (*responsive, please read aloud the bold print*)

Rev. Britney L. V. Knight

Go now to the people who are overwhelmed by despair.

We will take the hope which has been given to us and share it with all.

Go now to those who are at odds with neighbors.

We will offer the peace and reconciliation which God has poured into our lives.

Go now to those who are the most vulnerable in our world.

We will bring the healing, the grace, the love of our God.

**God of Reconciliation, may this food strengthen us in love
and help us to serve you in each other.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

R E S P O N D I N G

Giving of Our Tithes & Offerings *We give out of gratitude to God for...*

Give by clicking the blue "shop now" button above this livestream or use ways listed in the box below.

*Doxology Hymn #609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures high and low...Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known;

Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Text by Brian Wren, Music by Hal H. Hopson ©1989, ©1998 Hope Publishing Company CCLI License #11174474

Benediction

Rev. Britney L. V. Knight

Postlude

The Rejoicing (Fireworks Suite), G. F. Handel

Leslie Weber

**GIVE
PLUS⁺**

3 Ways to give tithe or offering... THANK YOU!

1. Use the QR code at right.

2. Go to www.firstcovenanterie.org and click the **GIVE NOW** button at the bottom of the homepage.

3. Mail your check to:

First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant,
250 West 7th Street, Erie, PA 16501



INVITATION TO MINISTRY

11:00 next week! Facebook LIVE worship returns to 11:00 a.m. on Sundays, beginning **September 13**.

Back to the Grind pivoted from winter to fall! In lieu of Friday late-night hot dogs (TGIF). Masked and social-distanced, OUTdoors, we will greet Gannon students with coffee and pastries. All served gloved, no-touch. Want to be a part of sharing God's love with students? Our next opportunity is Tuesday, **September 8**, meeting at the church at 7, serving from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Text or call Rachel Moldovan at 412.849.7826

Dinner & Devotions Covenant Connections is pivoting to a brief parking lot gathering/devotions, 5:00 p.m., and take-out dinners, twice a month. **First one: this Wednesday, September 9**. Dinners available for pick-up from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m., \$6 (\$3 children/college students). Pay with credit card, check or exact change please. Jack Jones will create his some of his favorite comfort meals and desserts. This week: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes & vegetable. Please phone or email your reservation to 814.456.4243 / office@firstcovenanterie.org

Silent Prayer & Reflection offered in the sanctuary twice/month. Sign up to spend 25 minutes quietly praying (masked) or reflecting. 10, 10:30, 11, 11:30 are the time slots available. The church will provide a copy of the prayer chain and other prayer suggestions. Enter from main 6th street doors. office@firstcovenanterie.org

Fall Faith Formation How are you inviting God to form your faith? Questions? britney.knight@firstcovenanterie.org

Children/Families- September 13 under bell tower-2:00 p.m., **27** Crop Walk-1:00 p.m.

Youth- September 20 2:00 p.m. hand bells, 3:00 youth group, **27** Crop Walk-1:00 p.m.

Adults-

Women & the Word (Zoom) Wednesdays, 7 p.m. "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament"

Bible Study (Zoom) Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., Pastor Britney

Bible Study Facebook LIVE Wednesdays, 12:00 noon, pastors lead. Studying Matthew 25 series texts.

Men's Bible Study September 17, 7:30 a.m., Parables, Pastor Chris

Faith Discussion (Zoom) Sundays, 9:30 a.m. "Unbelievers: An Emotional History of Doubt", Rob Baker

Music Ministry Opportunities Get creative during Covid. Contact: montgomery.service@firstcovenanterie.org

Virtual Choir - for anyone / all ages. Record your part in advance to create a "choir" together.

Praise Band - smaller configurations of instrumentalists / singers

Kids / Youth - chimes / hand bells on Sundays (see Faith Formation above)

Vocal / Instrumental Solos - have a talent to share in worship? Offer your gifts!

Have some clothing or household items to clear out? A large, Erie-wide effort to recycle and re-use items and support local non-profits *ReuseFest* will be held on **September 12, 2020**. Many of our ministry partners will benefit: Erie City Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Chosen. Plus others like Dress for Success, Mercy Center for Women and the Anna Shelter. Box or bag and label your clean, reusable items, throw them in the trunk and bring them to UPMC Health Plan, 380 East Bayfront Parkway, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Details here: <https://cutt.ly/kfozZ3S>

A different kind of CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, **September 27** at 1:00 p.m. Meet in the church parking lot. Each participating church is designing a unique walk to promote social distancing. Our walk will be 1.5 miles in the neighborhood surrounding the church. We will gather at the conclusion the the Deifenbach Garden for masked / distanced fellowship. The CROP Walk raises funding to address global hunger and poverty. If there was ever a time to raise significant funds, it is during a global pandemic. Walker forms available from the church office, M-F 8:30 to 5 p.m. Or call to have one mailed to you. T-shirts, \$10 and masks, \$6 are available. Contact Tim Tracy to order or get a sponsor form: tptracy72@gmail.com

Gannon friends We miss seeing you in person! We are praying regularly for you. Be sure to contact Campus Minister Rachel (Kennedy) Moldovan about creative ways to connect (online, in-person) with other students, volunteer with neighbors or learn more about the church: rachel.kennedy@firstcovenanterie.org

The September church newsletter "Covenant Chimes" has been mailed and e-mailed. It is also posted on the church website www.firstcovenanterie.org The 8 page newsletter contains information about all of the adapted ministries for the fall. Stay connected. If you would like a copy mailed or emailed to you call or email the church office 814.456.4243, office@firstcovenanterie.org **Deadline for October newsletter submissions: September 15.**

The church prayer chain has migrated to Google Docs online. It is updated daily. Sometimes multiple times. If you would like to commit to pray daily for the concerns listed, contact montgomery.service@firstcovenanterie.org

Farmer's Market: Today in Perry Square Join our partners from the Erie Downtown Partnership and Oasis Market for a Farmer's Market from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring local produce and other items from Burch Farms and five or six other vendors. Outside, good for social distancing! Masks required. Why not swing by after worship?

772

Live into Hope

1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

This text on Luke 4:16-20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.

203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Capo 3: (D) (A7)
Refrain F C7

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show

(D) (D/F#) (Em7) (A7) (D)
 F F/A Gm7 C7 F *Fine*

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

(D) (Bm) (Em) (A)
 F Dm Gm C

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3 These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, will - ing to wash oth - ers'

(D) (Bm) (Em7) (A7) (D)
 F Dm Gm7 C7 F *to Refrain*

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 race; neigh-bors are near us and far a - way.
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 feet; this is the way we should live like you.

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Considering that this text comes from a part of the world where Christianity is not the primary religion gives these simple but powerful words even more depth and meaning. The tune name recalls the district in the Northern Region of Ghana where this tune was collected.

TEXT: Tom Colvin, 1969, rev. 1997, alt.
 MUSIC: Ghanaian folk melody; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1963; arr. Jane Marshall, 1982
 Text and Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company
 Music Arr. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

CHEREPONI
 7.7.9 with refrain

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether 529



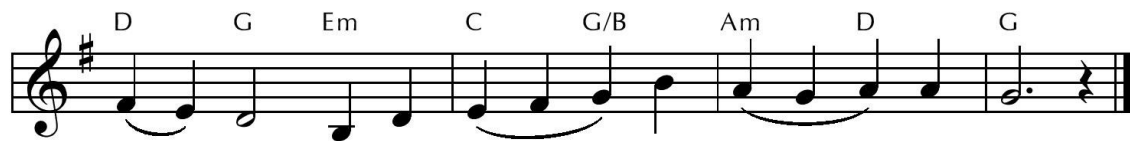
1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Here we touch your gar - ment's hem.
 lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

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This communion text calls attention to the inherent sacramental nature of all meals and the communal dimensions of all human interaction. The tune, originally composed for an anthem setting of this text, honors the institution where the composer was trained and later taught.