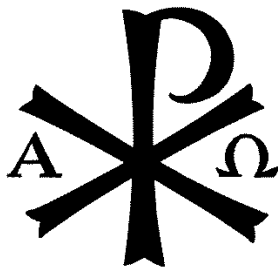


# The Second Sunday in Advent

December 6, 2015



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America*

Dr. Ron Gonzales, Minister

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*Upon entering the sanctuary please maintain silence for  
the sake of the congregation's preparation for worship, and please make  
sure all electronic devices are turned off or set to silent mode.*

**-DRAWING NEAR TO GOD-**

**Welcome and Silent Prayer**

Father in heaven,  
our hearts desire the warmth of your love,  
and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.  
Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior,  
and give us the strength to grow in love,  
that the dawn of his coming  
may find us rejoicing in his presence  
and welcoming the light of his truth.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 117.1-2

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**\*Song of Advent**

*Hymn No. 203*

*HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING*

## **-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-**

### **Confession of Sin**

O Lord, no day of our lives has passed  
that has not proved us guilty in your sight.  
Prayers have been uttered from prayerless hearts.  
Praise has often been praiseless sound.  
Our best services are filthy rags.  
All things in us call for our rejection,  
yet all things in Christ plead our acceptance.  
Grant us to hear your voice assuring us  
that by your stripes we are healed;  
that you were bruised for our iniquities,  
that you became sin for us  
that we might become righteous in you.  
Grant that by resting in your righteousness  
we may hereafter walk in newness of life  
and run hard after your commandments;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

1 Timothy 1.15

### **Lighting of the Second Advent Candle:**

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3.1

New Testament Reading

Matthew 3.1-3

### **\*Song of Praise to Christ**

*Hymn No. 241*

*THOU DOST REIGN ON HIGH*

### **Prayer for the Church and the World**

## -ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 56.1-57.21

Sermon

"Being Revival-Ready"

Rev. Ron Gonzales

\*Song of Response

### Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

words Charles Wesley, 1747  
music Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system includes four numbered verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system continues the lyrics. The fourth system continues the lyrics. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and accompaniment.

1. Love di - vine all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down:  
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry trou - bled breast;  
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;  
4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be:

fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown:  
let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest:  
sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.  
let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;

Je - sus thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art,  
take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heav'n we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
End of faith, as its Be - gin - ing, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
pray, and praise thee, with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
til we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## **Worship of God with Tithes and Offering**

*\*DOXOLOGY*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

words Thomas Ken, 1709; music Genevan Psalter, 1551; Public Domain

## **Confession of Faith**

What is the dying-away of the old self?

**It is to be genuinely sorry for sin,  
to hate it more and more,  
and to run away from it.**

What is the coming-to-life of the new self?

**It is wholehearted joy in God through Christ  
and a delight to do every kind of good  
as God wants us to.**

—The Heidelberg Catechism, Nos. 89-90

## **-OBSERVING THE SACRAMENT-**

### **The Lord's Supper**

We celebrate the Lord's Supper by coming forward (generally from the back of the sanctuary to the front, though you may commune at any time) and partaking of the bread and the cup. Wine is served in the inner ring of each tray; grape juice in the outer ring. We warmly invite to the Table all baptized Christians, who are living under the authority of Christ and his Church. By eating the bread and drinking of the cup, you are admitting that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Christ alone for salvation. If this does not describe you, we are glad you are here and commend to you the following prayers for your use during this time.

*A Prayer for those Searching for the Truth*

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life you promise. Amen.

*A Prayer of Belief*

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

**\*Song of Thanksgiving**

*Hymn No. 214*

*ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH*

**-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-**

**\*Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

**Postlude and Silent Prayer**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets,  
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:  
Grant us the grace to heed their warning and forsake our sin,  
that we may greet with joy the coming of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

\*Please stand if able

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**Our Nursery Helpers**

Worship

*Today: Erika & Jack Leinweber*

*Next Week: Katie Leinweber & Annie Carpenter*

## **Sermon Notes: “Being Revival-Ready” (Isaiah 56.1-57.21)**

1. God’s people as they should be and will be (56.1-8)
  - a. Empowered by hope (56.1)
  - b. Marked by trust (56.2)
  - c. Inclusive of all (56.3-8)
2. God’s people as they shouldn’t be but are (56.9-57.21)
  - a. Self-seeking leaders (56.9-12)
  - b. A mixed people (57.1-21)

## Prayer Concerns

*Alister & Sarah Torrens* (Ukraine): Pray for the Torrens as they minister in Kiev, that God strengthens their marriage and family, opens doors of opportunity for the gospel, and uses Alister's ministry at the seminary to further his kingdom purposes in Ukraine and eastern Europe.

## Announcements

*Birthdays this Week:*

December 6	Duane Jud
December 8	Addilyn Chabre
December 9	Hannah Alden

*Christmas Caroling & Hayride:* Please join us Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 PM, at the church. We will carol from a horse-drawn covered wagon, then return to the church for drinks and Christmas treats. The church will provide beverages and families should bring snacks to share, finger foods, etc. RSVP to Eric Carpenter by December 13.

*RUF Boise State:* Brian and Gail Frey are expecting to end the year with a significant shortfall. If you would like to join us in helping them, please drop a check in the offering by December 13, made payable to Covenant, with "RUF Boise State" on the memo line.

*Sunday School* is on break in December. It will resume in January.

*Visitors:* Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and invite you to join us downstairs, following the service, for refreshments and fellowship.

## Weekly Gatherings

*The Leinweber's Home Fellowship Group* meets at their home on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Dinner is provided, children are welcome, and the group is a lot of fun!

*The Men's Group* meets Thursdays, from 6:00 to 7:30 AM, at Pastor Ron's office, for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. The men are currently studying Genesis, and all are invited.

## Explanation of Cover Symbol

The Chi Rho symbol is one of the most ancient Christian symbols. XP, the first two letters of the Greek "Christ," is an abbreviation of the name of the Lord. This symbol is often, as here, accompanied with other symbols, in this case "Alpha" and "Omega," the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The symbol originates from Revelation 22.13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (cf. Revelation 1.8, 17; 21.6). This particular symbol dates from the first few centuries of the Christian era and is often found on tombs.