

LORD'S DAY

January 11, 2015



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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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

O God, who was and is and ever shall be,
before whose face the generations rise and pass away:
Age after age the living seek you and find that there is no end to your faithfulness.
Our fathers walked by your guidance and trusted in your compassion.
Continue to be for us the cloud by day and the fire by night.
Where but in you have we a shelter from the storm or a shadow from the heat of day?
In our temptations, you alone know and are near.
In sorrow, your pity revives the fainting soul;
in prosperity and ease, it is your Spirit alone that can preserve us in humility.
O Unfailing Supply of Peace and Righteousness,
take now the veil from our hearts and join us in one communion
with the prophets and saints who have trusted in you and were not ashamed;
for we ask it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 89.5-8, 14-18

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 38

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, all that we are is laid bare before you.

What could be hidden within us, even if we were unwilling to confess it?

We would be hiding you from ourselves, not ourselves from you.

And we make our confession not in words alone,

but with the voice of our soul and in our thoughts which cry aloud to you.

When we are evil, making confession to you is simply to be displeased with ourselves.

When we are good, it is to make no claim on our own behalf,

for without you we can do nothing.

And so we confess our many sins of thought, word, and deed.

We love you and so we are ashamed of ourselves and,

once again, choose you and your will.

Forgive us and help us to seek no pleasure for ourselves

except that which is also pleasure for you;

in Jesus' name. Amen.

—Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

2 Corinthians 5.21

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 185

MAJESTIC SWEETNESS SITS ENTHRONED

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

1 Timothy 3.8-13

Sermon

"The Character and Work of Deacons"

Rev. Ron Gonzales

*Song of Response

You Came to Us, Dear Jesus

words Edmund P. Clowney, 1985
music H. Barrie Cabena, b. 1933
Arr. Eileen Davis, 2008

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The first system contains six lines of lyrics, the second system contains six lines, and the third system contains four lines. The lyrics are written in a simple, sans-serif font, with line numbers 1 through 6 preceding the first line of each system. The lyrics are as follows:

1. You came to us, dear Je-sus, in our dy - ing, as bro - ken, bleed - ing
2. You came to us, dear Je-sus, in our yearn - ing, as faint and fam - ished
• 3. You came to us, dear Je-sus in our fear - ing: our dread the lash - ing
4. You came to us, dear Je-sus, in our sigh - ing, for blind and lame and
• 5. We come to you, dear Je-sus, in your broth - ers in pris - on, need - y,
6. You came to us, dear Je-sus in your dy - ing; your wounds poured love as

we could make no sign. Com - pas-sion, Lord, brought you where we were ly - ing,
• we be - fore you stood; com - pas-sion, Lord, our emp - ti - ness dis - cern - ing,
• waves, the tem - pest shrill. Com - pas-sion, Lord, drew you to us, and near - ing,
par - a - lyzed we lay. Com - pas - ion, Lord, turned you to still our cry - ing,
• hun - gry, sick, and cold; com - pas-sion, Lord, sees you in all these o - thers,
blood up - on the tree. Com - pas-sion, Lord, from Cal - va - ry is cry - ing,

to moved lift us up, to pour on oil and wine.
• to you to mul - ti - ply the loaves for food.
and touch our dark - ened eyes with light of day.
• in touch - ing them our Sav - ior's hand we hold.
"Bind up their wounds as you would do to me!"

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 do you believe about the incarnation?

**We believe that God fulfilled the promise
which he had made to the early fathers
by the mouth of his holy prophets
when he sent his only and eternal Son
into the world
at the time set by him.**

**The Son took the “form of a servant”
and was made in the “likeness of man,”
truly assuming a real human nature,
with all its weaknesses,
except for sin;
being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary
by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

—The Belgic Confession, Article 18

-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 body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking of the cup, you are acknowledging 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.

A Prayer for those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need and may turn from every false pleasure to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

***Song of Thanksgiving**

Hymn No. 246

MAN OF SORROWS! WHAT A NAME

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

Postlude and Silent Prayer

Almighty and most merciful Father:

Grant us a heart to love you more faithfully,
and enable us to show our thankfulness
by giving up ourselves to your service
and delighting in all things to do your will;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Please stand if able

Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

Today: Maggie Buob & Abigail Carpenter

Next Week: Renee Hedine & Emily Leinweber

Sunday School:

Today: Peter Early & Judie Jud

Next Week: Janice Vander Griend & Sandy Miller

Weekly Gatherings

Home Fellowship Group resumes this Wednesday and meets on all but first Wednesdays, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, at Jack and Pat Lilly's (1607 Evergreen St), for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. This week they are studying Isaiah 1.1-31. All are invited!

Men's Group is studying Genesis on Thursdays, at 6:00 AM, at Pastor Ron's office. All men are invited.

Women's Group is studying 1 Peter on Fridays, at 1:00 PM, at the church. If you would like to learn more please contact Cherry Gonzales. All women are invited.

Prayer Concerns

The Braendleins: Praise God for sustained health. Pray that the family, and especially the children, continue to be protected during this cold and flu season.

The Christian Aid Center: Pray for the ongoing work of the Christian Aid Center; that through its staff and volunteers the love of God will be extended to many in need.

Dory Milistefr continues to improve, following a recent bout with pneumonia. Pray that she returns to full strength and that she knows God's presence during this time.

Dale Miller (Sandy's brother) is undergoing chemo- and radiation therapy. Pray that the treatments accomplish their purpose and that God sustains and strengthens Dale, physically and spiritually.

Bret Reller is currently in Afghanistan and will deploy to Syria and Iraq later this year. Pray for his safety and the safety of those serving with him, as well as for the success of their mission.

Announcements

Birthdays this Week:

January 11	Sam Kimmell
January 12	Steve Milistefr
January 14	Veronica Klicker
January 16	Elijah Klicker

Daily Bible Reading: Reading through the Bible is a vital part of our spiritual growth. Pastor Ron is doing so again in 2015, using M'Cheyne's daily schedule, which is found on the literature table. Please consider joining him.

Officer Nominations: The Session believes that the church would benefit from additional officers and is therefore inviting members to prayerfully consider nominating other male members to serve as elders or deacons. Nominations can be made by letter between January 11 and February 11.

Serving Dinner: We are serving dinner tomorrow night at the Christian Aid Center. If you would like to help, either with meal preparation or serving dinner, please let Janice Vander Griend know.

Session Meeting: The elders are meeting this Friday, at 6:00 AM at Pastor Ron's office, to pray for and conduct the business of the church. Pray for them as they do, and be sure to let them know how they can pray for you.

Explanation of Cover Symbol

In the Greek language of the early Christian era abbreviations were typically the first and last letters of words, often with a superscription to indicate the missing letters. IC is a standard abbreviation of IHCOYC, the Greek "Jesus," XC the abbreviation of XPICTOC, "Christ"; and NIKΑ means "He conquers." The symbol then reads, "Jesus Christ Conquers by the Cross" or "Jesus Christ, Victor."