

# **The First Sunday in Advent**

**November 27, 2016**



**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America*

**Dr. Ron Gonzales, Minister**

**Office: 5 W Alder St, Ste 237 Walla Walla, WA 99362**

**(509) 522-1020 E-mail: [office@covenantwallawalla.org](mailto:office@covenantwallawalla.org)**

*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**

Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal, you are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing; help us to praise you now for sending your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts wait, and to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and dominion, now and forever. Amen.

### **\*Call to Worship**

Lift up your head, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?**

**The LORD, strong and mighty,  
The LORD, mighty in battle!**

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?**

**The LORD of hosts,  
He is the King of glory!**

—Psalm 24.7-10

### **\*Prayer of Adoration**

## **\*Song of Worship to Our King**

*Hymn No. 198*

*LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES!*

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

#### **Confession of Sin**

Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of those around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

*Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin*

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

Zephaniah 3.14-17

#### **Lighting of the First Advent Candle**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9.6-7

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1.1-3

## **\*Song of Longing for Our King**

*Hymn No. 196*

*COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS*

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

### **-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-**

#### **Scripture Lesson**

Colossians 3.18-19

#### **Sermon**

“Husbands and Wives”

Rev. Ron Gonzales

## **\*Song of Response**

*Hymn No. 176*

*HAIL, THOU ONCE DESPISED JESUS!*

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

*\*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**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

—The Nicene Creed

## **-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 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 prayer 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.

### **\*Song of Thanksgiving**

*Hymn No. 460*

*AMAZING GRACE!*

## **-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-**

### **\*Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

### **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:* Hannah Alden

*Next Week:* Nicole Miller

#### **Sunday School**

*Today:* Collie Parsons & Kathy Martin

*Next Week:* Collie Parsons & Kathy Martin

### **Gatherings**

*Home Fellowship Group* meets on first Tuesdays (at the Carpenter's) and third Tuesdays (at the Davis's) of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. The group is currently studying Colossians, and all are invited.

*Kids' Quest*, is a catechism class for children, ages 5 through elementary grades, taught by Pastor Ron. It meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month (September through May), from 3:30 to 4:45 PM, at the church.

*The Men's Group* resumes its study of Proverbs this Wednesday, at 6:00 AM, at Pastor Ron's office. All men are invited.

*Prayer Meeting:* Please join us for prayer, here in the sanctuary, this Tuesday at 7:00 PM.

## **Sermon Notes: "Husbands and Wives" (Colossians 3.18-19)**

1. The Proper Order of Relationships
2. The Difference in the Commands Given
3. Rooted in the Nature of Things

## Prayer Concerns

*Diane Hartman* (Robert's daughter) just underwent two weeks of stem cell therapy for ALS. Pray that it proves helpful and that she and her family are kept in God's peace.

*Tom & Melissa Manning* (Jordan): Pray for the Mannings as they minister to patients at Annour Sanatorium and to the Syrian refugees in Mafraq, that God blesses their work and brings salvation and growth in Christ to many.

*Saphira Torrens* had foot surgery this past Tuesday in Northern Ireland. Pray that her recovery continues to go well and that she and Alister are soon able to return to Kiev, where Sarah and Thaddaeus are eagerly awaiting their arrival.

## Announcements

*Birthdays & Anniversaries this Week:*

November 27	Seth and Hannah Alden
November 27	Robert Fastenow
November 28	Henry Schroeder
December 1	Kathy Martin

*Christmas Caroling & Hayride:* Please join us the evening of December 18 for a caroling party in a horse-drawn wagon. More details to come.

*Pastor Ron & Cherry Gonzales* would love to have you join them next Sunday, December 4, from 4:00 to 8:00 PM, at their house (7934 Mill Creek Rd) for hot cider, carols, and Christmas cheer. Please bring a Christmas treat to share.

*Kathy Martin* has moved. Her new address is 213 Chapra St, Walla Walla, 99362. Please note this in your church directory.

*Visitors:* Welcome to Covenant! Please join us downstairs, following the service, for refreshments, a time of fellowship and, if your schedule permits, our Sunday School hour.

### Explanation of Cover Symbol

The anchor is an ancient Christian symbol for hope. It is derived from Hebrews 6.19: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul..." When combined with a cross it makes plain that Christian hope is in Christ and His redemption. The symbol was frequently used in this sense in the catacombs of ancient Rome.