

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2016



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

A voice cries:

*"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."*

O Lord, as we worship today, help us to prepare to welcome your dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation. Help us to worship you.

—based on Isaiah 40.3

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 66.1-4

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 26

TELL OUT, MY SOUL, THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against your holy laws, and we have left undone those things which we ought to have done. O Lord, have mercy on us; spare those who confess their faults; restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

—From *The Book of Common Prayer*

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Jeremiah 33.14-16

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 53.2-5

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 2.14-15, 17

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 194

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Colossians 3.22-4.1

Sermon

“Born to Adore and Obey”

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 585

TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE

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

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in 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.

—The Heidelberg Catechism, No. 1a

-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 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. 200

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

Postlude and Silent Prayer

Almighty and gracious Father, grant us a heart to love you, and enable us to show our thankfulness by giving ourselves up 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: Samantha Schroeder & Jackson Leinweber *Next Week:* Erika & Katie Leinweber

Gatherings

The Home Fellowship Group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, at Kathy Martin's (213 Chapra St), 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 meets Wednesdays, from 6:00 to 7:30 AM, at Pastor Ron's office, for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. They are currently studying Proverbs and all men are invited.

Prayer Meeting: We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary, to pray for one another, the kingdom, and our world. Please join us.

Sermon Notes: “Born to Adore and Obey” (Colossians 3.22-4.1)

1. Slavery in the Ancient World
2. Slavery and the Church
3. The Glory of Our Common Experience

Prayer Concerns

The Daniel Family: Pray for Dick and the Daniel family; that they are kept in God's peace as they grieve the death of Barbara.

Brian & Gail Frey (Boise State): Pray for Brian as he shares the gospel with students and disciples believers, that God uses him and the ministry of RUF to bring eternal life to many.

Diane Hartman (Robert's daughter) is recovering from 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.

Saphira Torrens has another post-op appointment on Tuesday, before returning with Sarah and Thaddaeus to Kiev on Wednesday. Pray that the doctors are pleased with her progress and that her recovery continues with minimal pain.

Announcements

Christmas Caroling & Hayride: Please join us next Sunday, 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; families should bring snacks (finger food, etc.) to share. Please sign up for your preferred trip. Sign-up sheets are downstairs in the Coffee Hour room.

Christmas Service: Because Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, we will not have a Christmas Eve Service but will worship Christmas morning, at 10:00 AM, with the saints from Central Christian.

Session Meeting: The elders are meeting this Thursday, at 5:30 PM, to pray for and conduct the business of the church. Please pray for them as they do, and please let them know how they can pray for you.

Sunday School is on break this month. Classes for all ages will resume January 8.

Visitors: Welcome to Covenant! Please join us downstairs, following the service, for refreshments and a time of fellowship.

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 NIKA means "He conquers." The symbol then reads, "Jesus Christ Conquers by the Cross" or "Jesus Christ, Victor."