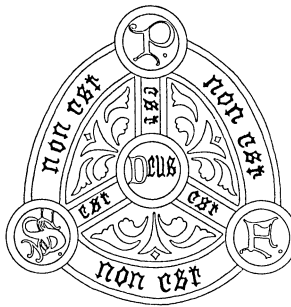


The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2016



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

You surprised a world, O God, by coming not in clashing thunder or flashing lights but in the quiet and simple splendor of a child's radiant face. Help us to understand this mystery of love beyond all loves, that we may be led to a new kind of love: a love that loves not by what we can get but in what we can give, a love that counts not who is worthy to receive but is showered freely on all. Show us the way of Bethlehem's child, that in seeing, we may believe, and in believing, we may learn again how to love. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 98.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 208

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, we long to recapture the wonder of Christmas. You showed the world your splendor in the coming of your Son, yet our sins often leave us cold. Instead of peaceful, our hearts are often anxious; instead of joyful, irritable; instead of filled with surprise, bland; instead of anticipatory, fearful. In our sophistication we have become impoverished. Have mercy on us, O God. Renew us by your grace and mercy. Deliver us from the things that dim the brightness of your grace within us and prevent us from taking our deepest delight in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, God with us. Amen.

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

John 1.9-13

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5.2-5a

New Testament Reading

Luke 2.8-15

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 214

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Congregational Petitions and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Colossians 4.2-6

Sermon

“Making the Most of Our Speech”

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 478

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

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

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

—The Apostles' 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.

***Song of Thanksgiving**

Hymn No. 193

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

Postlude and Silent Prayer

God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; help our lips speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us. In his holy name we pray. Amen.

*Please stand if able

Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

Today: Erika & Katie Leinweber

Next Week: TBA

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: “Making the Most of Our Speech” (Colossians 4.2-6)

1. In Prayer (vv. 2-4)

2. In Conversation (vv. 5-6)

Prayer Concerns

Diane Hartman (Robert's daughter) is recovering from 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 final post-op appointment was not as encouraging as Sarah and Alister had hoped. They have returned to Kiev and will continue to care for her as she heals. Pray for patience as they await the outcome, and for Saphira who needs to be relatively inactive during her recovery.

Announcements

Birthdays this Week:

December 19 Roberta Haer

Christmas Caroling & Hayride: Please join us today 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: Next Sunday, at 10:00 AM, we are joining with Central Christian in a combined Christmas Service. Please bring your family and join us as we lift our hearts and voices in worship.

Financial Update: The November financial statement has been posted to the church website, on the Member Portal page. If you need the password to access it, please let Jacob Schroeder know. He would be happy to give it to you.

Kids' Quest is taking this Thursday off. It will next meet January 12.

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

The Shield of the Holy Trinity is frequently found in stained glass windows of medieval churches. This emblem expresses the Christian doctrine of the triunity of Almighty God, a truth taught in Scripture and affirmed by the Council of Constantinople in AD 381.