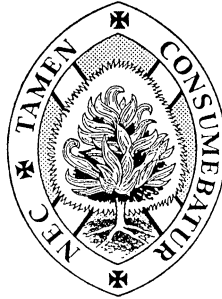


# The Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 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**

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, we long to enter your presence and worship you face to face, awed by your majesty, greatness and glory, encouraged by your steadfast love. Yet there is often a coldness in our hearts, a hardness and an unwillingness to admit our sin and need of you. Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. Come near and strengthen us until Christ reigns supreme within; in every thought, word, and deed. Give us a faith that purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to you, and always clings to the cross; in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Isaiah 40.1-2

### **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*

### **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 3.20-21

Sermon

“The Primary School of Faith”  
Rev. Ron Gonzales

\*Song of Response

*Hymn No. 131*

CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

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 required of superiors toward their inferiors?

**It is required of superiors, according to that power they receive from God, and that relationship in which they stand, to love, pray for, and bless their inferiors; to instruct, counsel, and admonish them; supporting, commending, and rewarding such as do well; and withholding support, rebuking, and chastising such as do ill; protecting, and providing for them all things necessary for soul and body; and, by grave, wise, holy, and exemplary posture, to obtain glory to God, honor to themselves, and so to preserve the authority that God has put on them.**

—The Westminster Larger Catechism, No. 129

## **-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. 195*

*JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

### \*Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

### Postlude and Silent Prayer

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, to think and do what is right; so that we, who cannot do anything good without you, may be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

\*Please stand if able

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### Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

*Today:* Nicole Miller

*Next Week:* Samantha Schroeder & Jackson Leinweber

Sunday School

*Today:* 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* 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: “The Primary School of Faith” (Colossians 3.20-21)**

1. Commands and Propensities

2. Spheres and Family

3. Parents and Fathers

## 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.

*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.

*Chris and Mary Granberry* (White Swan): Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team, as they share the love of Christ with the Yakama People this Christmas season; that many might come to trust in Christ as their Savior.

*Saphira Torrens* had foot surgery last week in Northern Ireland. Pray that her recovery continues to go well and that she and Alister are soon able to return to Kiev.

## Announcements

*Birthdays this Week:*

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

*Christmas Caroling & Hayride:* Please join us Sunday, December 18, for a caroling party in a horse-drawn covered wagon, then return to the church for drinks and Christmas treats. Sign up lists are available during coffee hour.

*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.

*Pastor Ron & Cherry Gonzales* would love to have you join them from 4:00 to 8:00 PM today, at their home (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.

*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

Since the time of the Reformation, the burning bush has been a symbol of the Church. The Latin words are taken from Exodus 3.2 and read "...and yet it was not consumed." In one of his letters, Samuel Rutherford reminded his correspondent, "The bush has been burning these five thousand years, and no man yet saw the ashes of that fire."