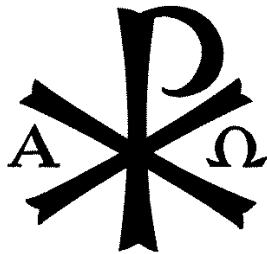


First Sunday in Lent

February 14, 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, most kind and generous:

We come to you as your children,

because we need you and want to be with you;

we come to you as our Lord and God,

because we are in awe of you and worship you;

we come to you in the name of Jesus,

because you have promised to be with us when we gather in his name.

All glory be to you, O Father, and to the Eternal Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

One God, forever and ever. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 99.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 100

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, what evil have we not done?
Or if there is evil that we have not done,
what evil is there that we have not spoken?
Or if there is any evil that we have not spoken,
what evil is there that we have not thought to do?
But you, O Lord, are good.
You are merciful.
You saw how deep we were sunk in death,
and it was your power that drained dry
the well of corruption in the depths of our hearts.
All that you have asked of us
was to deny our own wills and accept yours.
Forgive us for every failure to do so,
and help us to follow you in every way and always;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

— Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 32.1-2, 5

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 243

PRAISE THE SAVIOR NOW AND EVER

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Acts 16.6-40

Sermon

“The Mystery of Divine Grace”
Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 469

HOW SWEET AND AWESOME IS THE PLACE

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 is effectual calling?

**Effectual calling is the work of God’s Spirit,
by which, convincing us of our sin and misery,
enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ,
and renewing our wills,
he persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ,
freely offered to us in the Gospel.**

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 31

—OBSERVING THE SACRAMENT—

The Lord's Supper

We celebrate the Lord's Supper by coming forward 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. 521
LESS

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING

-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: Abigail Carpenter & Jackson Leinweber

Next Week: Nicole Miller

Sunday School

Today: Peter & Jenni Early

Next Week: Peter & Jenni Early

Weekly Gatherings

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 (during the school year), from 3:30 to 4:45 PM, at the church.

The Leinweber's Home Fellowship Group meets at their home from on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Dinner is provided, children are welcome, and the group is a lot of fun!

The Men's Group meets Thursday, from 6:00 to 7:30 AM, at Pastor Ron's office for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. The group is currently studying Genesis, and all men are invited.

The Women's Group is studying Ecclesiastes, a combination of wisdom and folly "under the sun." The group meets Saturdays, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, at the church, and all are invited. For more information, talk to Cherry Gonzales.

Sermon Notes: “The Mystery of Divine Grace” (Acts 16.6-40)

1. Paul’s Imprisonment in Rome
2. Planting the Church in Philippi
3. Four Lessons on Divine Grace

Prayer Concerns

Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan): Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team as they seek to serve the Yakama People, in word and deed, in the name of Christ. Pray that their witness is used by God, and that the seeds of the gospel they sow bear fruit that remains.

Tom Parsons (Lynn and Collie's son) had surgery to remove a tumor on his spinal cord, which was benign, as well as to repair damage done to his vertebrae. He is doing well, though he is in much pain. Pray that he knows God's comfort and strength, and that the pain soon subsides.

Bret Reller has returned to Afghanistan, and is expected to be there for six months. 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:

February 19 Nicole Miller

Art Day on the Reservation: Sacred Road is planning an Art Day tomorrow for the children on the reservation. If you are interested in helping, talk to Chad Leinweber.

Session Meeting: The elders are meeting this Thursday, at 6:30 PM, at Pastor Ron's office, to pray for and conduct the business of the church. Please pray for them as they do, and be sure to let them know how they can pray for you.

Visitors: Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and invite you to join us downstairs, following the service, for refreshments, fellowship and, if your schedule permits, our Sunday School hour.

Explanation of Cover Symbol

The Chi Rho symbol is one of the most ancient Christian symbols. XP, the first two letters of the Greek "Christ," is an abbreviation of the name of the Lord. This symbol is often, as here, accompanied with other symbols, in this case "Alpha" and "Omega," the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The symbol originates from Revelation 22.13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (cf. Revelation 1.8, 17; 21.6). This particular symbol dates from the first few centuries of the Christian era and is often found on tombs.