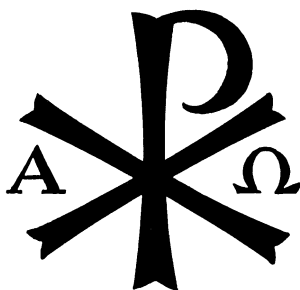


ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 28, 2017



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

Almighty God, as we prepare to worship today, we ask that you will stretch our imaginations to sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension. Help us perceive how Jesus' presence in heaven can give us confidence in our praying and hope for the future; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 111.1-9

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 660

O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

-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

Hebrews 7.23-25

***Song of Faith in Christ**

Hymn No. 305

ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Galatians 2.1-10

Sermon

"The Telltale Signs of Grace"

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 518

CHRIST, OF ALL MY HOPES THE GROUND

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 true faith?

True faith is

not only a knowledge and conviction

that everything God reveals in his Word is true;

it is also a deep-rooted assurance,

created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel,

that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ,

not only others, but I too,

have had my sins forgiven,

have been made forever right with God,

and have been granted salvation.

— The Heidelberg Catechism, No. 21

-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 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. 693

BLESSED ASSURANCE

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

Numbers 6. 24-26

Postlude and Silent Prayer

O God, you raised up Christ to rule over all creation, giving him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. We praise you that, lifted in power, he lives and reigns forever in your glory and so fulfills his promise to be with us always to the end of time. Amen.

*Please stand if able

Our Nursery Helpers

Sunday School

Today: Collie Parsons & Kathy Martin

Worship

Today: Hannah Alden

Next Week: Nicole Miller

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 (September through May), from 3:30 to 4:45 PM, at the church.

The Leinweber Home Fellowship Group, led by Chad, meets at the Leinweber's (60 Cranbrook Ln) on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. They are considering the Bible's teaching on parenting and all (including children) are welcome.

The Martin Home Fellowship Group is taking a break for the summer. It will resume in September.

The Men's Group is taking next week off. It resumes Wednesday, June 7, with a new study: Ecclesiastes. For more information see Pastor Ron. 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 Telltale Signs of Grace" (Galatians 2.1-10)

1. A Changed Life

2. A Kingdom Mentality

3. A Concern for the Poor

Prayer Concerns

Andrew Allen (our church planter in Soldotna, AK) is battling cancer. Pray the treatment he is receiving is effective, and that he and Amy know God's peace during this time.

Robert Fastenow is at Kadlec Medical Center in Richland, recovering from surgery to relieve pressure on the brain caused by a fall. Pray that he continues to improve and that he knows God's presence and peace.

Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan): Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team as they share the gospel in word and deed with the Yakama people; that many will trust Christ as their Savior, and that a vital, healthy church will result.

Riley Granberry (Chris's nephew) continues his battle with brain cancer. Pray for peace and strength as he undergoes treatment, as well as for healing.

Nicole Miller suffered an elbow injury this past week. Pray for relief from the pain, and that it heals properly.

Vickie Myers sees the surgeon in Portland on Tuesday. Pray that it is a helpful consultation, that the surgery can be scheduled soon, and that God continues to give her strength.

Bob Shaver (Rick Myers' father) suffered a fall and is in critical condition in a San Jose hospital. Pray he begins to respond to the care he is receiving, and that God grants peace to the Myers family.

Announcements

Birthdays this Week:

May 29

Madaline Klicker

Holiday: The office will be closed this Monday and Tuesday.

Visitors: Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and would love to have you join us downstairs, following the service, for refreshments and fellowship.

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.