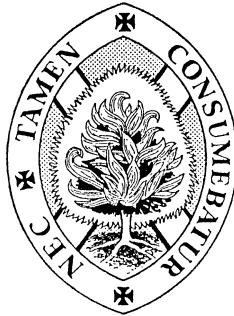


LORD'S DAY

May 3, 2015



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, your mercies have brought us
to the dawn of another Lord's Day.
Vain will be its gift unless we know you,
love you, and admire you more fully.
Allow us to do so, O Lord,
knowing that the ability to worship
is not in us, but in your enabling love.
Lead us and tend us by the hand
of the Good Shepherd himself. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 117.1-2

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 32

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, our soul is like a house, small for you to enter,
but we pray that you will enlarge it.
It is in ruins, but we ask you to remake it.
It contains much that you will not be pleased to see;
this we know and do not hide.
But to whom can we cry except you?
Forgive us, O Lord.
Cleanse us from our sins, our secret sins.
What wretches we are!
In your mercy, tell us what you are to us.
“Say to my soul, ‘I am your salvation’” (Ps 35.3)!
Come, O God, and stir our hearts.
Call us back to yourself.
Kindle your fire in us and carry us away.
Be our fire and our sweetness.
Let us love you and hasten to your side;
in Jesus’ name. Amen.

— Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 5.1-2

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 164

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 20.1-21.17; 23.1-18

Sermon

“The Heart of the Prophet”

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 92

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

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

How does Christ’s ascension to heaven benefit us?

First, he pleads our cause

in heaven

in the presence of his Father.

Second, we have our own flesh in heaven —

a guarantee that Christ our head

will take us, his members,

to himself in heaven.

Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth

as a further guarantee.

By the Spirit’s power

we make the goal of our lives,

not earthly things,

but the things above where Christ is,

sitting at God’s right hand.

— The Heidelberg Catechism, No. 49

-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 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. 498

JESUS! WHAT A FRIEND FOR SINNERS!

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

Postlude and Silent Prayer

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets,
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:
Grant us the grace to heed their warning and forsake our sin,
that we may greet with joy the coming of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Please stand if able

Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

Today: Olivia Buob & Emily Leinweber

Next Week: Erika Leinweber & Jack Leinweber

Sunday School

Today: Sam Schroeder & Eileen Davis

Next Week: Peter Early

Sermon Notes:

Prayer Concerns

Karl Hedine: Pray that the chemotherapy is successful in destroying any remaining cancer cells, that Karl's body is able to handle the treatments, and that he and Renee are strengthened in grace as they look to the Lord.

Del Klicker continues to recover from his recent fall. Pray that his hip heals properly and that he navigates life on crutches safely during his convalescence.

Alister & Sarah Torrens (Ukraine): Pray for the Torrens as they continue their work in Kiev; that God uses them to strengthen the church both there and, through Alister's ministry at the seminary, throughout eastern Europe.

Announcements

Birthdays this Week:

May 3	Jacob Schroeder
May 5	Kevin Chabre
May 5	Sandy Miller
May 5	Skip Sippert

Christian Aid Dinner: We are serving dinner at the Christian Aid Center next Monday, May 11. If you would like to help, please let Robert Fastenow know.

First Wednesday: Please join us this Wednesday, at 6:00 PM, for our monthly fellowship dinner. If your last name begins with A-K, please bring a main dish; L-Z, bring a salad.

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

Weekly Gatherings

Home Fellowship Group meets on all but first Wednesdays, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, at Jack and Pat Lilly's (1607 Evergreen St), for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. All are invited.

Men's Group is studying Genesis on Thursdays, at 6:00 AM, at Pastor Ron's office. All men are welcome.

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."