

LORD'S DAY
December 27, 2015



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America
Dr. Ron Gonzales, Minister
Office: 5 W Alder St, Ste 237 Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 522-1020 E-mail: office@covenantwallawalla.org

*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 96.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 44

HOW GREAT THOU ART

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Father, forgive us for the things we have done
that make us feel uncomfortable in your presence.
For the front that we polish so carefully for men to see
does not deceive you.
You know every thought that has left its shadow on our memory,
every motive that curdled something sweet within us.
We acknowledge that we have desired what we should not have.
We have toyed with what we knew was not for us.
We have been preoccupied with self-interest.
We have invited unclean thoughts into our minds
and entertained them as honored guests.
Our ears have often been deaf to your whisper.
Our eyes have often been blind to the signs of your guidance.
Make us willing to be changed,
even though it requires surgery of the soul and the therapy of discipline.
Make our hearts warm and soft,
that we may receive and accept the blessing of your forgiveness,
the benediction of your "Depart in peace...and sin no more";
for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Titus 3.4-7

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 164

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

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

Isaiah 59.14-60.22

Sermon

“The Renewal of All Things”

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 324

CHRIST IS COMING!

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 do you believe
concerning “the holy catholic church”?

**I believe that the Son of God
through his Spirit and Word,
out of the entire human race,
from the beginning of the world to its end,
gathers, protects, and preserves for himself
a community chosen for eternal life
and united in true faith.
And of this community I am and always will be
a living member.**

—The Heidelberg Catechism, No. 54

-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.

***Song of Thanksgiving**

Hymn No. 679

'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

Postlude and Silent Prayer

Direct us, O Lord, in all our ways
and by your mercy and power protect us,
that in all our works begun,
continued, and ended in you,
we may glorify your most holy Name,
and on the Great Day, by your mercy,
obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Please stand if able

Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

Today: Nicole Miller

Next Week: TBA

Sermon Notes: “The Renewal of All Things” (Isaiah 59.14-60.22)

1. The “Before”: Man in Rebellion and Retreat (59.14-20)

2. The Pivot: God’s Covenant, Spirit, and Word (59.21)

3. The “After”: The Lord our Light (60.1-22)

Prayer Concerns

Alister & Sarah Torrens (Ukraine): Pray for the Torrens as they minister in Kiev, that God strengthens them in every way, opens doors of opportunity for the gospel, and uses Alister's ministry at the seminary to further his kingdom purposes.

Elder Chad Leinweber will be preaching next Sunday in Pastor Ron's absence. Please pray for his ministry of the word and for the congregation's worship.

Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries this Week:

December 27	C.J. Early
December 28	Eric and Karen Carpenter
December 28	Steve and Eileen Davis

Pastor Ron will be on vacation through January 5. If you have a need, please feel free to call one of the elders or deacons.

Sunday School resumes next week. Please plan to join us.

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

Weekly Gatherings

The Leinweber's Home Fellowship Group meets at their home on the 2nd and 4th 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 is on break for the holidays. It will resume its study of Genesis on January 7, at 6:00 AM, at Pastor Ron's office. All men are invited.

Explanation of Cover Symbol

In the Greek language of the early Christian era abbreviations were typically the first and last letters of words, often with a superscription to indicate the missing letters. IC is a standard abbreviation of IHCOYC, the Greek "Jesus," XC the abbreviation of XPICTOC, "Christ"; and NIKΑ means "He conquers." The symbol then reads, "Jesus Christ Conquers by the Cross" or "Jesus Christ, Victor."