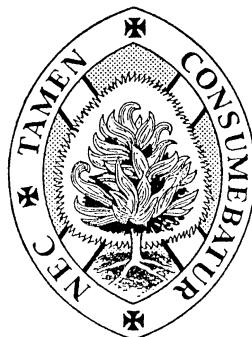


The First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2017



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 Email: office@covenantwallawalla.org

*Upon entering the sanctuary, please be sensitive
to 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

A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

O Lord, as we worship today,
help us to prepare to welcome your dramatic work in our midst,
in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.

Help us to worship you.

—based on Isaiah 40:3

***Call to Worship**

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

let the humble hear and be glad.

Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

—Psalm 34:1-3

Prayer of Adoration

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 26

TELL OUT, MY SOUL, THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD

-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

Jeremiah 33.14-16

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9.6-7

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1.1-3

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 196

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

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

Psalm 23.1-6

Sermon

“The Shepherd’s Psalm”
Rev. Ron Gonzales

*Song of Response

Hymn No. 510

THOU HIDDEN SOURCE OF CALM REPOSE

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 your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

—The Heidelberg Catechism, No. 1

-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. 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

O Lord, our never failing Help: Keep us under your merciful protection, and make us always to fear and love your holy Name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Please stand if able.

Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

Today: Collie Parsons

Next Week: Jenni Early

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 Leinwebers' (60 Cranbrook Ln) on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. For more information, see Chad. All (including children) are invited.

The Martin Home Fellowship Group, led by Eric Carpenter and Steve Davis, meets at Kathy Martin's (213 Chapra St), the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. They are studying the Psalms and all are welcome.

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 studying Ecclesiastes and all 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 Shepherd’s Psalm” (Psalm 23.1-6)

1. The Lord my Shepherd (vv. 1-4)

2. The Lord my Host (vv. 5-6)

Prayer Concerns

Andrew Allen: Pray for Andrew's battle with cancer and for his time with Amy and Katherine.

Coram Deo Presbyterian Church: Pray for Revs. Kyle Parker and Matt Bostrom's church planting labors in Spokane; that they yield much fruit and the church is strengthened under their leadership.

Judie Jud is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery. Pray that it continues to go well and that she is strengthened in every way as she looks to the Lord.

Tom & Melissa Manning sense God's call to southern Turkey, where there are four million Syrian refugees and very few Arabic speaking missionaries. They hope to move there in January but need to obtain a residency permit. Pray God continues to open the doors.

Bret Reller has been redeployed to the Middle East and will be there for six months. Pray for safety for him and his team, and for the success of their mission.

Announcements

Birthdays this Week:

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

Children's Choir: The children will be singing on Christmas Eve and, therefore, practicing today and the next three Sundays, immediately following the worship service, downstairs in the children's Sunday school room.

Christmas Eve Service: Please join us Christmas Eve, as we gather with Central Christian and Crazy Love for a Service of Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Open House: Pastor Ron and Cherry Gonzales would love to have you join them next Sunday, between 3:00 and 7:00 PM, at their home (7934 Mill Creek Rd) for hot cider, carols, and Christmas cheer. Please bring a Christmas treat to share.

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 a time of fellowship.

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."