

# The Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2017



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America*

Dr. Ron Gonzales, Minister

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*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**

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 117.1-2

### **Prayer of Adoration**

### **\*Song of Advent**

*Hymn No. 203*

*HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING*

## **-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-**

### **Confession of Sin**

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, O God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

*Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Galatians 4.4-5

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3.1

New Testament Reading

Matthew 3.1-3

**\*Song of Advent**

*Hymn No. 241*

*THOU DOST REIGN ON HIGH*

**Prayer for the Church and the World**

**-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-**

**Scripture Lesson**

Psalm 24.1-10

**Sermon**

“Welcoming the King of Glory”

Rev. Ron Gonzales

**\*Song of Response**

*Hymn No. 688*

*HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD!*

## **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**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

—The Apostles' Creed

## **-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 Advent**

*Hymn No. 214*

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

## **-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-**

### **\*Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

### **Postlude and Silent Prayer**

O God, in whose hand is all the abundance of the earth: restore in us true innocence of life, that, following your Son, we may ascend your holy mountain and rejoice in the completion of your good kingdom. Amen.

\*Please stand if able.

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### **Our Nursery Helpers**

Worship

*Today:* Jenni Early

*Next Week:* Katie and Jack Leinweber

### **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: “Welcoming the King of Glory” (Psalm 24.1-10)**

1. The All-Creating King (vv. 1-2)

2. The All-Holy King (vv. 3-6)

3. The All-Victorious King (vv. 7-10)

## **Prayer Concerns**

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

*Christ Central Presbyterian Church:* Pray for Rev. Greg Joines, our church-planter in Corvallis; that God strengthens him and blesses the ministry of the Word, as he gives himself to the city and to the church he is planting.

*Chris & Mary Granberry* (White Swan): Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team, as they share God's love in practical ways with the Yakama People this Christmas season.

*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.

*Vickie Myers:* Pray for Vickie as she continues her recovery from surgery; that her strength returns and that she knows God's daily presence.

*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**

*Children's Choir:* The children's choir for the Christmas Eve service is practicing again today, right after the worship service, downstairs in the children's Sunday school room.

*Christmas Eve Service:* Please join us at 5:00 PM 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 today, 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.

*Financial Update:* The October financial statement has been posted to the church website, on the Member Portal page. If you need the password, please let Jacob Schroeder know.

*Session Meeting:* The elders are meeting tomorrow at 5:30 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.

### **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 NIKA means "He conquers." The symbol then reads, "Jesus Christ Conquers by the Cross" or "Jesus Christ, Victor."