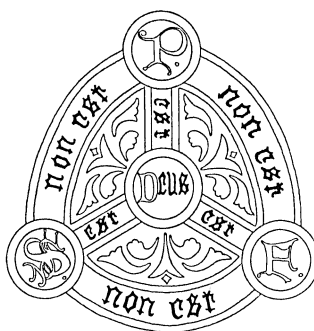


The Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2017



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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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

Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal, you are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing; help us to praise you now for sending your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts wait, and to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and dominion, now and forever. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 98.1-3

Prayer of Adoration

***Song of Advent**

Hymn No. 208

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your great Name, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who possess more, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, and our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Cleanse us and change our very way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Mark 10.45

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 53.2-5

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 2.14-15, 17

***Song of Advent**

Hymn No. 194

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

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 25.1-22

Sermon

“Waiting on the Lord”

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 465

MARVELOUS GRACE OF OUR LOVING 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

Who takes the initiative in man's relationship to God?

The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience to Him as their Creator, yet they could never have any attainment of Him as their blessedness and reward, except by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which He has been pleased to express by way of covenant.

—The Westminster Confession of Faith, 7.1

-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 Advent**

Hymn No. 200

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

Postlude and Silent Prayer

Grant, O Lord, that the words we have heard this day, may, through your grace, be so grafted into our hearts, that they bring forth in us faith, hope, and especially love, to the honor and praise of your Name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Please stand if able.

Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

Today: Katie and Jack Leinweber

Next Week: Abigail and Annie Carpenter

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 is on break until March or April.

The Martin Home Fellowship Group is on break until January.

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: "Waiting on the Lord" (Psalm 25.1-22)

1. Waiting Obediently
2. Waiting Contritely
3. Waiting Submissively
4. Waiting Prayerfully

Prayer Concerns

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

Brian & Gail Frey (RUF): Pray that the Freys are refreshed over the Christmas break and that the coming semester is filled with opportunities to share Christ and disciple students on the Boise State University campus.

Grace Community Presbyterian Church: Pray for Rev. Ken Hegtvedt, our church-planter in Bremerton; 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.

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

Birthdays this Week:

December 19 Roberta Haer

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.

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

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

The Shield of the Holy Trinity is frequently found in stained glass windows of medieval churches. This emblem expresses the Christian doctrine of the triunity of Almighty God, a truth taught in Scripture and affirmed by the Council of Constantinople in AD 381.