

LORD'S DAY
December 31, 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

Almighty God, whose glory is above the heavens, praise waits for you in Zion! Out of your great mercy you have gathered us into your church. Receive the adoration of our hearts this day, and grant that we may so honor you, both in spirit and in outward form, that your name may be glorified through the worship of our lips and our hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 89.5-8, 14-18

Prayer of Adoration

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 38

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, all that we are is laid bare before you. What could be hidden within us, even if we were unwilling to confess it? We would be hiding you from ourselves, not ourselves from you. And we make our confession not in words alone, but with the voice of our soul and in our thoughts which cry aloud to you. When we are evil, making confession to you is simply to be displeased with ourselves. When we are good, it is to make no claim on our own behalf, for without you we can do nothing. And so we confess our many sins of thought, word, and deed. We love you and so we are ashamed of ourselves and, once again, choose you and your will. Forgive us and help us to seek no pleasure for ourselves except that which is also pleasure for you; in Jesus' name. Amen.

— Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 32.1-5

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 295

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

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

Exodus 34.5-8 and Mark 6.45-52

Sermon

"Take Heart"

Rev. Dan York

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 498

JESUS! WHAT A FRIEND FOR SINNERS!

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.

***Song of Thanksgiving**

Hymn No. 693

BLESSED ASSURANCE

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

Postlude and Silent Prayer

God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; help our lips speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us. In his holy name we pray. Amen.

*Please stand if able.

Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

Today: Nicole Miller

Next Week: TBA

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 is on break until January 10, when it will resume its study of Ecclesiastes.

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: "Take Heart" (Mark 6.45-52)

Prayer Concerns

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

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

Redeemer Presbyterian Church: Pray for the congregation in Soldotna, AK as they adjust to Andrew's departure and look for an interim pastor to help them plan for the future. May God protect these saints, keep them strong, and make them a vital witness for Christ on the Kenai Peninsula.

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.

Alister & Sarah Torrens (Kiev): Pray for the Torrens; that God protects their marriage and family, opens doors for the gospel, and uses Alister's ministry at the seminary to strengthen the church in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

Announcements

Birthdays this Week:

January 3

Oliver Miller

Christian Aid Dinner: We are serving dinner at the Christian Aid Center next Monday, January 8. Help is needed in preparing and serving the meal. If you would like to assist with either, please let Heidi Leinweber know.

Congregational Meeting: Central Christian would like to give their building and property to Covenant and Crazy Love. We will have a congregational meeting next Sunday, after worship, to discuss what this means, to answer questions, and to pray.

Daily Bible Reading: Reading through the Bible regularly is vital to spiritual growth. Many of us are doing so again in 2018, using M'Cheyne's daily schedule, which is available on the literature table. Please consider joining us.

Sunday School resumes next week, with classes for all ages. The adult class will be studying "Biblical Worship: Why we do what we do each Lord's Day," taught by Pastor Ron and Elder Jacob Schroeder. Please join us!

Explanation of Cover Symbol

The anchor is an ancient Christian symbol for hope. It is derived from Hebrews 6:19: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul..." When combined with a cross it makes plain that Christian hope is in Christ and His redemption. The symbol was frequently used in this sense in the catacombs of ancient Rome.