

LORD'S DAY

February 4, 2018



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

Father in heaven, we pray that you will in mercy look down upon us, your family, for whom the Lord Jesus was willing to be betrayed, given up into the hands of wicked men, and suffer death on the cross. Grant us the desires of our hearts this Lord's Day morning: to see you in your majesty and glory, to be renewed in our experience of your grace and love, and to hear your voice speaking in your Word. Help us, by your Spirit, to make a genuine and heartfelt offering of our praise, our love, and ourselves to you. Receive pleasure, this day, from your grateful people; for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 46.1-7, 10-11

Prayer of Adoration

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 89

GOD IS OUR STRENGTH AND REFUGE

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and listen to our groanings, for we acknowledge our iniquities and lay open our sins before you. Against you, O God, have we sinned; to you we make our confession and implore forgiveness. Turn your face again, O Lord, upon your servants whom you have redeemed with your own blood. Spare us, we pray. Assure pardon for our sins and be pleased to extend to us your loving-kindness and mercy; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 2.9-10

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 167

WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES

***Confession of Faith**

What else did God create?

God created all things by his powerful Word, and all his creation was very good; everything flourished under his loving rule.¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 5

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Song of Songs 3.1-5

Sermon

“The Hiddenness of God”
Rev. Ron Gonzales

¹ “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good” (Gen 1.31).

*Song of Response

As the Deer

words and music Martin Nystrom 1984
CCLI #2415226

1.As the deer pant-eth for the wa-ter, so my soul long-eth af-ter
2.You're my friend and You are my broth-er ev-en though You are a
3.I want You more than gold or sil-ver, on-ly You can-sat-is-

Thee. You a-lone are my heart's de-sire and I-long to wor-ship
King. I love You more than an-y oth-er, So much more than an-y-
fy. You a-lone are the real joy-giv-er and the ap-ple of my

Thee.
thing. You a-lone are my strength, my shield; To You a-lone may my spir-it
eye.

yield. You a-lone are my heart's de-sire, and I long to wor-ship Thee.

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

-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. 55

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13-14

Postlude and Silent Prayer

Heavenly Father, who has prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love and thirst for you that we, loving you and seeking you above all things, may obtain your promises, which far exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Please stand if able.

Our Nursery Helpers

Sunday School

Today: Peter Early

Next Week: Peter Early

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 is on break until March or April.

The Martin Home Fellowship Group, led by Eric Carpenter and Steve Davis, meets at Kathy Martin's (213 Chapra St), the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. They are studying the Song of Songs and all are welcome.

The Men's Group meets Wednesdays, from 6:00 to 7:30 AM, for fellowship and Bible study. They are currently studying Ecclesiastes and all men are invited.

Prayer Meeting: We meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary, to pray for one another, the kingdom and our world. Please join us.

Sermon Notes: "The Hiddenness of God" (Song of Songs 3.1-5)

1. The Worst Dream Ever

2. When Dreams Become A Reality

Prayer Concerns

Rev. Andrew Allen has begun a new course of chemotherapy that has shown some positive signs. His energy is returning and he is gaining weight. Pray that it has an arresting effect on the cancer, and that God continues to shower his peace on this family.

Brian & Gail Frey (Boise): Pray for Brian and the staff and students of RUF, that through them God touches hearts and brings life to many students at Boise State University.

Vickie Myers: Pray for relief from the post-surgical pain she is experiencing, that she soon sees the benefits of the procedure, and that she knows God's strength and grace during her recovery.

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

Bret Reller is serving with Special Forces in the Middle East. Pray for his safety and the safety of his team, as well as for the success of their mission.

Announcements

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 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.