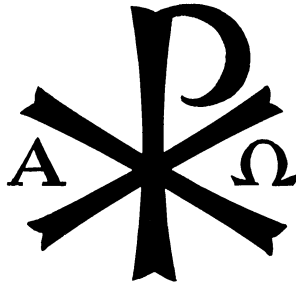


# The Third Sunday in Lent

March 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**

Great are you, O Lord, and highly to be praised; great is your power and your wisdom immeasurable. We desire to praise you, human beings carrying the witness of our sin and the knowledge that you resist the proud. Stir us, we pray, to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. Amen.

—Adapted from Augustine's Confessions

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

Psalm 103.1-5

### **Prayer of Adoration**

### **\*Song of Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 53*

*PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess that we are prone to evil and slothful in good. You alone know how often we have offended you: in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. But you, O Lord, have mercy on those who are ashamed of and sorry for their iniquities. Teach us to hate our offenses; cleanse us from our secret faults; forgive us our sins for the sake of your dear Son. And O most loving Father, help us, we pray, to live in your light and walk in your ways, in keeping with the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin*

## Assurance of Pardon

1 John 2.1-2

### **\*Song of Praise to Christ**

*Hymn No. 243*

*PRAISE THE SAVIOR NOW AND EVER*

### **\*Confession of Faith**

What does God require in the first, second, and third commandments?

**First, that we know and trust God as the only true and living God. Second, that we avoid all idolatry and do not worship God improperly. Third, that we treat God's name with fear and reverence, honoring also his Word and works.<sup>1</sup>**

—The New City Catechism, No. 9

## Prayer for the Church and the World

### **-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-**

### **Scripture Lesson**

Ephesians 1.19-23

### **Sermon**

**"A Friend in High Places"**  
Mr. Ronnie Curfman

### **\*Song of Response**

*Hymn No. 294*

*THE GOLDEN GATES ARE LIFTED UP*

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<sup>1</sup> It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you" (Dt 6.13-14).

## **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

### A Debtor to Mercy Alone

words Augustus M Toplady, 1740-1778 Mod.

music Eileen Davis, 2000



1. A debt - or to mer - cy a - lone, of cov - e - nant mer - cy I sing; nor  
2. The work which his good - ness be - gan, the arm of his strength will com - plete; his  
3. My name from the palms of his hands e - ter - ni - ty will not e - raise; im -



fear with your right - eous-ness on, my per - son and off - 'ring to bring. The  
prom - ise is yea and a - men, and nev - er was for - feit - ed yet. Things  
pressed on his heart it re - mains, in marks of in - del - i - ble grace. Yes,



ter - rors of law and of God with me can have no - thing to do; my  
fu - ture, nor things that are now, nor all things be - low or - a - bove, can  
I to the end shall en - dure, as sure as the ear - nest is giv'n; more



Sav - ior's o - be - dience and blood hide all my trans - gres - sions from view.  
make him his pur - pose for - go, or sev - er my soul from his love.  
hap - py, but not more se - cure, the glo - ri - fied spir - its in heav'n.

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

### **\*Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

### **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.

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### **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, at Pastor Ron's office, for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. The group is currently studying 2 Timothy and all 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: “A Friend in High Places” (Ephesians 1.19-23)**

## Prayer Concerns

*Rev. Andrew Allen:* Pray the treatment Andrew is receiving continues to show good results, that it has an arresting effect on the cancer, and that he and Amy are kept in God's peace.

*Building Acquisition:* Pray for the leaders of Covenant and Crazy Love, as they continue to assess the building's needs and determine what is required to move forward.

*Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan):* Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team, that their labors of love on the reservation are met with open hearts, that the gospel brings healing to broken lives, and that God builds his church among the Yakama People.

*Redeemer Presbyterian Church:* Pray for the congregation in Soldatna, AK as they look for an interim pastor to help them plan for their future. May God continue to protect the church, keep it strong, and make it a vital witness 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

*Birthdays this Week:*

March 7	Rebekah Schroeder
March 9	Hannah Schroeder

*Christian Aid Dinner:* We are serving dinner at the Christian Aid Center on Monday, March 12. If you would like to help, either in preparing or serving the meal, please let Heidi Leinweber know.

*Daylight Savings Time* begins next Sunday. Be sure to turn your clocks forward an hour.

*Sunday School* is on break until April 8.

*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 Chi Rho symbol is one of the most ancient Christian symbols. XP, the first two letters of the Greek "Christ," is an abbreviation of the name of the Lord. This symbol is often, as here, accompanied with other symbols, in this case "Alpha" and "Omega," the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The symbol originates from Revelation 22.13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (cf. Revelation 1.8, 17; 21.6). This particular symbol dates from the first few centuries of the Christian era and is often found on tombs.