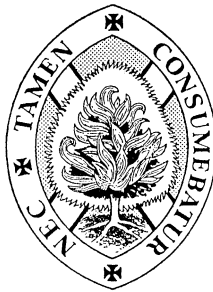


# The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 18, 2018



## 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**

All-knowing and all-caring God, we gather this day drained by another week. We are like a parched desert, empty and in need of replenishment. Visit us with your presence, saturate us with your Spirit, and bathe us in your streams of living water, that our lives might acknowledge and worship you to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ. Amen.

—based on John 4.13-14; 7.37-38

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

Psalm 105.1-3

### **\*Prayer of Adoration**

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

*Hymn No. 57*

*HALLELUJAH, PRAISE JEHOVAH, O MY SOUL*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

Lord Jesus, forgive us and help us. We are slow to learn, prone to forget, and weak to climb. We are in the foothills when we should be on the heights. We are pained by our graceless hearts, our prayerless days, our poverty of love, our sloth in the heavenly race, our sullied consciences, our wasted hours, and our unspent opportunities. We are blind while the light shines around us. Take the scales from our eyes and grind to dust our hearts of unbelief. Make it our greatest joy to study, meditate, and gaze upon you; to sit like Mary at your feet, to lean like John on your breast, to appeal like Peter to your love, to count like Paul all things rubbish compared to knowing and gaining you. Amen.

*Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin*

**\*Song of Praise to Christ**

*Hymn No. 696*

*I'VE FOUND THE PEARL OF GREATEST PRICE!*

**\*Confession of Faith**

What does God require in the sixth, seventh, and eighth commandments?

**Sixth, that we do not hurt, or be hostile to our neighbor, but be patient and peaceful, pursuing even our enemies with love. Seventh, that we abstain from sexual immorality and live purely and faithfully, whether in marriage or in single life, avoiding all impure actions, looks, words, thoughts, or desires, and whatever might lead to them. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else, nor withhold any good from someone we might benefit.<sup>1</sup>**

—The New City Catechism, No. 11

**Prayer for the Church and the World**

**-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-**

**Scripture Lesson**

Song of Songs 6.11-8.4

**Sermon**

**“The Fruit of Repentance”**  
Rev. Ron Gonzales

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<sup>1</sup> For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Rom 13.9).

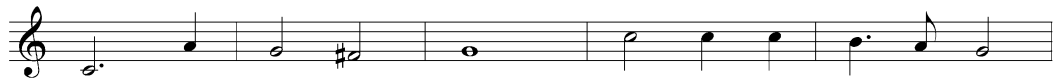
## \*Song of Response

### O How the Grace of God Amazes Me

Emmanuel T. Sibomana, 1946  
translated, F. Barff



1.O how the grace of God a - maz - es me! It loosed me from my  
2.My God has chos - en me, though one of nought, to sit be - side my  
3.Not for my right - eous - ness, for I have none, but for His merc - y's  
4.And when I think of how, at Cal - va - ry, he bore sin's pe - nal -  
5.Now all my heart's de - sire is to a - bide in Him, my Sav - ior  
6.Lord Je - sus, hear my prayer, Your grace im - part; When e - vil thoughts a -  
7.Come now, the whole of me, eyes, ears, and voice, join me, cre - a - tion  
8.O how the grace of God a - maz - es me! It loosed me from my



bonds and set me free! What made it hap - pen so?  
King in heav - en's court. hear what my Lord has done,  
sake, Je - sus, God's Son, suf - fered on Cal - vary's tree;  
ty in - stead of me. a - mazed, I won - der why  
dear, in Him to hide, my shield and buck - ler He,  
rise through Sat - an's art, O, drive them all a - way  
all, with joy - ful noise: Praise Him who broke the chain  
bonds and set me free! What made it hap - pen so?



His own will, this much I know, set me, as now I show, at lib - er - ty.  
O the love that made Him run to meet His er - ring son! This has God wrought.  
cru - ci - fied with thieves was He; Great was his grace to me, His way - ward one.  
He, the sin - less One, should die for one so vile as I; My Sav - ior He!  
cov' - ring and pro - tect - ing me; from Sat - an's darts I'll be safe at His side.  
and do You from day to day, keep me be - neath Your sway, King of my heart.  
hold - ing me in sin's do - main and set me free a - gain! Sing and re - joice!  
His own will, this much I know, set me, as now I show, at lib - er - ty.

## 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 for salvation. 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. 465*

MARVELOUS GRACE OF OUR LOVING LORD

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

### **\*Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

### **Postlude and Silent Prayer**

Almighty and most merciful Father: Grant us a heart to love you more faithfully, and enable us to show our thankfulness by giving up ourselves to your service and delighting in all things to do your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

\*Please stand if able.

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### **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*, 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: "The Fruit of Repentance" (Song of Songs 6.11-8.4)**

1. The Posture of the King (6.11-13)
2. The King's Love Expressed Again (7.1-9)
3. The Joy of Restored Fellowship (7.9-8.4)

## **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.

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

*Brian & Gail Frey (Boise):* Pray for Brian and the staff and students of RUF, that God uses their lives and the proclamation of the gospel to bring life to many at Boise State University.

*Mike Leinweber (Chad's dad)* is declining rapidly and is thought to have only a few weeks left. Pray that he is spared unnecessary pain; that Chad's brother and sister, and their families, are able to see him before he passes; and that God surrounds the family, and especially Betty, with his peace.

## **Announcements**

*Birthdays this Week:*

March 19                      Anna Vander Griend

*Good Friday Service:* Please join us March 30, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM, as we reflect on the passion and death of Christ, in preparation for Easter.

*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**

Since the time of the Reformation, the burning bush has been a symbol of the Church. The Latin words are taken from Exodus 3.2 and read "...and yet it was not consumed." In one of his letters, Samuel Rutherford reminded his correspondent, "The bush has been burning these five thousand years, and no man yet saw the ashes of that fire."