

Reformation Sunday
October 28, 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

O God, teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me when I do, for I cannot seek you unless you first teach me, nor find you unless you first reveal yourself to me. Let me seek you in longing, and long for you in seeking. Let me find you in love, and love you in finding.

—Ambrose of Milan, AD 339-397

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 96.1-4

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 53

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, what could move hearts like ours, which have your Son, yet still lack confidence? Would another sacrifice convince the guilty of your grace? Would health convince the ailing of your care? Would more money convince the struggling of your kindness? Would a miracle convince the doubter that you hear prayers? O God, our sin is ever before you. You gave your own Son, yet we still doubt you. He is our consolation, but trouble makes us question your care; our shield, but persecution makes us slow to speak your name; our provision, but hunger makes us neglect your kingdom; our atonement, but death makes us fear your judgment. What more could be given to a people? What more could be done? Forgive us our folly; forgive us our sins and give us confidence in the gift of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

1 Timothy 1.15

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 162

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

***Confession of Faith**

What are the sacraments or ordinances?

The sacraments or ordinances given by God and instituted by Christ, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper, are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as a community of faith by his death and resurrection. By our use of them the Holy Spirit more fully declares and seals the promises of the gospel to us.¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 43

¹ "We are buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom 6.4).

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

Luke 2.1-21

Sermon

"The Only Thing that Ever Really Happened"

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 230

THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOR

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 (generally from the back of the sanctuary to the front, though you may commune at any time) 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 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. 195

JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

Closing Prayer

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

*Please stand if able.

Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

Today: Nicole Miller

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 (October through May), from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, at the church.

The Leinweber Home Fellowship Group, led by Chad, meets at the Leinwebers' (60 Cranbrook Ln), on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, at 12:30 PM. For more information, see Chad. All (including children) are welcome.

The Martin Home Fellowship Group led by Eric Carpenter and Steve Davis, meets at Kathy Martin's (203 Chapra St), the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. They are studying the Gospel of Luke and all are welcome.

The Men's Group meets Wednesdays, from 6:00 to 7:30 AM, at Pastor Ron's office for Bible Study fellowship, and prayer. The group is currently studying Exodus and all are invited.

Prayer Meeting: We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, at 5:15 PM in the chapel, to pray for one another, the kingdom, and our world. Please join us.

Women's Study: A study of the Book of Acts, led by Cherry Gonzales, has just started. It meets Thursdays, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM at the church (childcare is provided), and all are welcome.

Sermon Notes: "The Only Thing that Ever Really Happened" (Luke 2:1-21)

1. The Unlikely Arrival of God Incarnate (vv. 1-7)

2. The Unlikely Announcement of the Savior of the World (vv. 8-21)

Prayer Concerns

Rev. Andrew Allen has chosen not to pursue whole-brain radiation but has begun an oral targeted drug treatment that has shown positive results in some cases. Pray that it proves helpful in slowing down the cancer, that Andrew is granted strength to endure, and that he and Amy are kept in God's peace.

The Davis Family: Pray that God surrounds the Davis, Miller, and Panther families with his comfort and peace as they mourn Joyce's death.

Mike Givens: Pray for relief from the pain Mike is experiencing, and that God brings healing to his shoulder without the need for surgery.

Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan): Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team; that their labors 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.

Lori Jud continues to improve after having throat surgery. Pray for her complete healing, and join the family in giving thanks that she is now allowed to swallow, take fluids orally from a sponge, and begin speaking.

Vickie Myers: Pray that Vickie's recovery from surgery continues to go well and that she is kept in God's peace.

Oaks Parish: Pray for Rev. Bryan Buck, our church planter in southeast Portland, that God strengthens and uses him as he preaches the gospel in word and deed.

Announcements

Operation Christmas Child: For those interested, it is time to begin packing your shoeboxes. The pickup date is Sunday, November 18. Brochures are available on the literature table.

Reformation Sunday Service: If you need a ride or would like to carpool with us to tonight's service at Grace URC in Kennewick, we will leave from Covenant at 4:30 PM. The service is at 6:00 PM, and is followed by a light dinner and time of fellowship.

Time Change: We revert to Standard Time next Sunday. Please set your clocks back one hour before retiring Saturday night.

Visitors: Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and would love to have you join us, following the service, for some refreshments and a time of fellowship.

Explanation of Cover Symbol

In the Greek language of the early Christian era abbreviations were typically the first and last letters of words, often with a superscription to indicate the missing letters. IC is a standard abbreviation of IHCOYC, the Greek "Jesus," XC the abbreviation of XPICTOC, "Christ"; and NIKA means "He conquers." The symbol then reads, "Jesus Christ Conquers by the Cross" or "Jesus Christ, Victor."