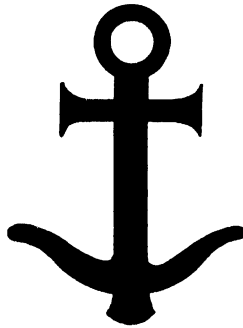


LORD'S DAY
January 5, 2020



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America
Dr. Ron Gonzales, Minister
66 S Palouse St | Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 522-1020 Email: office@covenantwallawalla.org

*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, as we prepare to worship today, we ask that you will stretch our imaginations to sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension. Help us perceive how Jesus' presence in heaven can give us confidence in our praying and hope for the future. Through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 135.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 12

EXALT THE LORD, HIS PRAISE PROCLAIM

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, our soul is like a house, small for you to enter, but we pray that you will enlarge it. It is in ruins, but we ask you to remake it. It contains much that you will not be pleased to see; this we know and do not hide. But to whom can we cry except you? Forgive us, O Lord. Cleanse us from our sins, our secret sins. What wretches we are! In your mercy, tell us what you are to us. "Say to my soul, 'I am your salvation'" (Ps 35.3)! Come, O God, and stir our hearts. Call us back to yourself. Kindle your fire in us and carry us away. Be our fire and our sweetness. Let us love you and hasten to your side; in Jesus' name. Amen.

—Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Colossians 1.21-22

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 243

PRAISE THE SAVIOR NOW AND EVER

***Confession of Faith**

What is our only hope in life and death?

That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 1

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Luke 24.50-53

Sermon

“Our Lord’s Ascension”

Rev. Ron Gonzales

¹ “For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s” (Rom 14.7-8).

*Song of Response

Before the Throne of God Above

C. Bancroft, V. Cook

1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove, I have a strong, a per - fect
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair, and tells me of the guilt with -
3. Be - hold Him there! the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect, spot - less right - eous -

plea, a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for
in, up - ward I look and see Him there who made an end to all my
ness; the great un - change - a - ble I AM the King of glo - ry and of

me. My name is grav - en on His hands, my name is writ - ten in His
sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
grace. One with Him - self I can - not die, my soul is pur - chased with His

heart, I know that, while in heav'n He stands no tongue can bid me thence de -
free. For God the Just is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don
blood; My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav - ior and my

part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
me, to look on Him and par - don me.
God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

CCLI #2415226

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 rings 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 body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking of the cup, you are acknowledging 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. 455

AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

Postlude

*Please stand if able

Our Nursery Helpers

Today: TBA

Next Week: TBA

Gatherings

A Children's Catechism Class, taught by Ronnie Curfman and Pastor Ron, meets the first and third Thursdays of each month, during the school year, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, at the church.

The Tuesday Night Home Fellowship Group, led by Eric Carpenter and Pastor Ron, meets at Kathy Martin's (213 Chapra St) on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. They are studying the Book of Revelation, considering each passage before it is preached. Everyone is welcome.

A Men's Leadership Bible Study, led by Kirk Alden, meets at Tate's Umapine Mercantile on Tuesdays, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. All men are invited. For more information, talk to Kirk.

The Men's Group meets Wednesdays, from 6:00 to 7:30 AM in the chapel, for Bible study, fellowship and prayer. They are beginning a study of Joshua this week. All men 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.

The Women's Study resumes this week. The group, which is led by Cherry Gonzales and Christina McBean, meets Thursdays, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, in the chapel. They are studying James, and all are invited.

Sermon Notes: “Our Lord’s Ascension” (Luke 24.50-53)

1. The Guarantee of Our Own
2. The Prerequisite to His Ongoing Ministry
3. The Prelude to His Final Act

Prayer Concerns

Boise Presbyterian Church: Pray for Rev. Brian Frey, our church planter in downtown Boise, that God blesses his labors as he gives himself to the city and to the church he is planting.

Rev. Jay & Bet Denton (Boise State University): Pray for Jay and the RUF staff as they ready for the Spring Semester, which begin January 13. May the gospel be on their lips and adorn their lives, so that by their testimony many will be drawn to the Savior and helped to grow in him.

Mike Givens fell and broke his arm. Pray for a speedy recovery and for protection from any further incident.

Tom Manning: Pray for wisdom as Tom and Melissa choose a course of treatment for the lymphoma Tom has, that it proves effective in eradicating the cancer, and that he is strengthened daily by the presence and grace of God.

Barb McLean is having carpal tunnel surgery on Friday. Pray it is effective and that her recovery goes well.

Elizabeth Miller fell and broke her hip while she and Clint were out of town for Christmas. She subsequently had her hip replaced and is now home and has begun rehab. Pray it goes well and that they both know God's strength amidst this unexpected challenge.

Vickie Myers has completed the antibiotic infusions. Pray the infection does not return so that a PICC line can once again be used to supply the nutrients she needs. And pray that she is kept daily in God's peace.

Announcements

Christian Aid Dinner: We are serving dinner at the Christian Aid Center on Monday, January 13. If you would like to help prepare or serve the meal, please let Heidi Leinweber know.

Daily Bible Reading: Reading through the Bible regularly is vital to our spiritual growth. Many of us will be doing so again in 2020, using Robert Murry M'Cheyne's daily schedule, which is available on the literature table. Please consider joining us.

Visitors: Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and hope you will join us after the service for some 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.