

**LORD'S DAY**  
**January 17, 2021**



**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, your mercies have brought us to the dawn of another Lord's Day. Vain will be its gift unless we know you, love you, and admire you more fully. Allow us to do so, O Lord, knowing that the ability to worship is not in us, but in your enabling love. Lead us and tend us by the hand of the Good Shepherd himself. Amen.

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 89.5-8, 14-18

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**\*Song of Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 38*

*IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

O Lord, all that we are is laid bare before you. What could be hidden within us, even if we were unwilling to confess it? We would be hiding you from ourselves, not ourselves from you. And we make our confession not in words alone, but with the voice of our soul and in our thoughts which cry aloud to you. When we are evil, making confession to you is simply to be displeased with ourselves. When we are good, it is to make no claim on our own behalf, for without you we can do nothing. And so we confess our many sins of thought, word, and deed. We love you and so we are ashamed of ourselves and, once again, choose you and your will. Forgive us and help us to seek no pleasure for ourselves except that which is also pleasure for you; in Jesus' name. Amen.

— Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

2 Corinthians 5.21

### **Confession of Faith**

What do the Scriptures principally teach?

**The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.<sup>1</sup>**

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 3

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<sup>1</sup>“Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus... All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim 1.13; 3.16).

## Prayer for the Church and the World

### -ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

#### Sermon

“A King, a Covenant, and a Merciful God”

1 Kings 1.11-2.46

Rev. Ron Gonzales

#### 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**

All who are baptized Christians, living under the authority of Christ and his body, the church, are warmly invited to partake of the Supper. Simply tell the elder or deacon who passes before you whether you prefer wine or grape juice. We will wait and partake together after everyone has been served. By eating the bread and drinking 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 but commend to you instead 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 Praise and Thanksgiving**

*Hymn No. 76*

*PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

### **\*Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

\*Please stand if able.

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### **Gatherings**

*Home Fellowship Group*, led by Pastor Ron, resumes this Tuesday, and will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Chad and Heidi Leinweber's, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, and will study 1 Kings and all are welcome.

*The Men's Group* meets Fridays, from 6:00 to 7:00 AM, in the Coffee Hour room. It has just begun a new series, led by Kirk Alden, entitled "Leading by the Book," in which fifty-two leadership principles related to personal development, relationships, and life skills will be studied from a biblical perspective. All men and older sons are invited!

*A Men's Leadership Bible Study*, led by Kirk Alden, meets at Tate's Umapine Mercantile on Thursdays, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. All men are invited. For more information, talk to Kirk.

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

**Sermon Notes: "A King, a Covenant, and a Merciful God" (1 Kings 1.11-2.46)**

## Prayer Concerns

*The Giver of Every Good Thing:* Jesus reassured his disciples by saying, “Which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him” (Mt 7.9-11)! In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Eric Carpenter, Sandy Cupolillo, Roberta Haer, Judie Jud, Del Klicker, Tom Manning, Elizabeth Miller, and Vickie Myers* might have the confidence to ask the Father this week for the good things they need.

*The Inauguration:* Pray for a peaceful inauguration on Wednesday in our nation’s capital and in state capitols across the country. Pray for our new President and Vice President, as well as for the new Congress, that God grants them servant’s hearts to work for the health our nation.

*Pandemic:* Continue to pray for the healing of those suffering from the virus and that the vaccine proves effective in protecting our healthcare workers and the most vulnerable.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 32,000 Christians out of 36.5 million people in *Morocco*. Although considered relatively tolerant compared to other countries in the region, Christians who talk to others about their faith risk criminal charges and arrest. Converts to Christianity are punished in other ways, such as losing inheritance and custody of children. Pray that laws would change, making it legal for Christians to share their faith. Pray for believers from Muslim backgrounds, as they in particular encounter adversity. And pray for boldness and discernment, as so many daily face the risk of prosecution for simply living out their faith.

*Alister & Sarah Torrens (Ukraine):* Pray for the Torrens as they give themselves to planting a new church in Kiev, for Alister’s teaching responsibilities at the seminary, and that God blesses their labors as they reach out to unbelievers around them.

## Announcements

*Financial Update:* The December financial statement has been posted to the church website. If you need the password to view it, Jacob Schroeder would be happy to give it to you.

*Session Meeting:* The Elders are meeting this Thursday, at 5:30 PM, to pray for and conduct the business of the church. Pray for them as they do and let them know how they can pray for you.

### Explanation of the 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.”