

LORD'S DAY
February 13, 2022



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, most kind and generous: We come to you as your children, because we need you and want to be with you; we come to you as our Lord and God, because we are in awe of you and worship you; we come to you in the name of Jesus, because you have promised to be with us when we gather in his name. All glory be to you, O Father, and to the Eternal Son, and to the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 99.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 46

ROUND THE LORD IN GLORY SEATED

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, teach us not to sin with such abandon. We do it all too easily. We pretend, lie, envy and lust, we criticize, brood, ignore and deny, we hoard, defame, distort and make excuses, and then we expect an easy forgiveness for the asking. Lord God, forgive us for our blatant disregard of your holy character. Let us not misinterpret your patience with our sin as if it were permissiveness. Astonish us with a wholesome, godly fear which will not drive us to despair, but cause us to number our days and give us hearts of wisdom; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

Luke 15.11-24

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 305

ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE

Confession of Faith

What is forbidden in the First Commandment?

The first commandment forbids the denying,¹ or not worshiping and glorifying, the true God as God,² and our God;³ and the giving to any other of that worship and glory due to him alone.⁴

What are we especially taught by the words, “before me,” in the First Commandment?

These words, “before me,” in the First Commandment teach us that God, who sees all things, takes notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god.⁵

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Nos. 47 and 48

¹ The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good (Ps 14.1).

² “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened” (Rom 1.21).

³ “I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me” (Ps 81.10-11).

⁴ “...because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature” (Rom 1.25-26).

⁵ Then he said to me, “Son of man, lift up your eyes now toward the north.” So I lifted up my eyes toward the north, and behold, north of the altar gate, in the entrance, was this image of jealousy. And he said to me, “Son of Man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel are committing here, to drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see still greater abominations” (Ezek 8.5-6). “If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart” (Ps 44.20-21).

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“Facing Life’s Realities”

2 Kings 21.1-26

Rev. Ron Gonzales

*Song of Response

Hymn No. 518

CHRIST, OF ALL MY HOPES THE GROUND

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 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. 562

ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

Gatherings

Home Fellowship Group, led by Pastor Ron, meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Chad and Heidi Leinweber's, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. They are studying 2 Kings and all are welcome.

The Men's Group meets Fridays, from 6:00 to 7:00 AM, in the Coffee Hour room. They are going through a series, led by Kirk Alden, entitled "Leading by the Book," in which fifty-two leadership principles related to personal development, relationships, and life skills are 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.

Sunday Evening Worship & Cultural Engagement: On the second Sunday of each month, we gather from 6:00 to 7:15 PM for a brief time of worship followed by teaching and discussion of issues relevant to our society's cultural moment. Pastor Ron and Elder Jacob Schroeder are leading a study on human sexuality, based on the report adopted by our General Assembly this past June. Reports can be found on the literature table. We meet in the sanctuary, and children are welcome.

The Covenant Women's Study, led by Cherry Gonzales, is just beginning 2 Corinthians. It is meeting on Wednesdays, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, in the Coffee Hour room. Questions for each week can be found on the literature table, and all women are invited.

Sermon Notes: "Facing Life's Realities" (2 Kings 21.1-26)

Prayer Concerns

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church: Rev Craig Harris is planting a church in Yakima. Pray for God's blessing as he gives himself to this work, and that the Lord leads him to many who are hungry to hear and respond to the gospel.

Rev. Jay & Bet Denton (Boise State University): Pray for Jay and the RUF staff as they reach out to students with the gospel and seek to help those who are already Christians grow in their love for God and their understanding of his grace.

God's Sustaining Presence: Moses said to Joshua, "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed" (Dt 31.8). In addition to healing and strength, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Nancy Hoeft, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers, Rich Parker* and *Wayne Snavelly* know God's sustaining presence this week.

The Persecuted Church: There are 1.2 million Christians out of 30 million people in *Nepal*. Most of the persecution comes from Hindu radicals who want Nepal to once again become a Hindu state. Seen as betraying their ancestor's faith, Christian converts live under intense pressure, including anti-conversion laws. They are often beaten, arrested and sentenced to prison, and church buildings are routinely destroyed. Pray for the protection of those who live under such daily threats. And pray for the church of Nepal as it gathers, that God uses its leaders and its worship to strengthen the saints and to establish them in the faith.

Announcements

Financial Update: The January 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.

New Church Directories are available on the literature table. Feel free to take as many as you like.

The Second Sunday Evening Worship & Cultural Engagement gathering for this month has been moved to February 27.

Session Meeting: The elders are meeting Thursday, at 5:30 PM, to pray for and conduct the business of the church. Pray for them as they do, and please 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."