

LORD'S DAY
January 15, 2023



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

Lord of all power and might, Author and Giver of all good things: As we gather in your presence, graft in our hearts the love of your Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and by your great mercy keep us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***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

Almighty God, to know you is the fulfillment of our deepest longings and the satisfaction of our most fervent desires. Yet foolishly we have sought our pleasures elsewhere. We have put the seeking of idols, which are bound to leave us empty, above seeking you. We have failed to love you with our whole heart, soul, and mind. We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us our sins for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. And grant that we might from this time forth serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

***Song of Faith in Christ**

Hymn No. 305

ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE

Confession of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

—The Apostles' Creed¹

¹ Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated as a baptismal confession, probably in the second century, and developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century.

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

"A New Kind of Slavery"

Romans 6.15-23

Rev. Ron Gonzales

*Song of Response

Hymn No. 562

ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER

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 SACRAMENTS-

The Lord's Supper

We celebrate the Lord's Supper by coming forward (generally from the back of the sanctuary to the front) and partaking of the bread and the cup. Wine is served in the inner ring of each tray, grape juice in the outer rings. 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. 642

BE THOU MY VISION

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

Gatherings

Home Fellowship Group, led by Pastor Ron, resumes its study of Romans this Tuesday at Chad and Heidi Leinweber's, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. All are invited.

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.

Sermon Notes: "A New Kind of Slavery" (Romans 6.15-23)

Prayer Concerns

Help From on High: David prayed, "Many are saying of me, 'God will not deliver him.' But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call out to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side" (Ps 3.2-6). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Paul Carmichael, Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Nancy Hoeft, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers* and *Danielle Parker* know God's protection from every fear as they call out to him.

The Persecuted Church: There are nearly 2 million Christians out of 21 million people in *Sri Lanka*, a country where Christians continue to reel from Islamic jihadists, as well as from radical Buddhist and Hindu groups that harass and discriminate against converts to Christianity. Pray for those who have lost loved ones at the hands of violent extremists, that God comforts and strengthens them in the faith. Pray for the church of Sri Lanka, that it grows despite the suffering it is enduring. And pray for protection from further attacks on Christians and Christian churches.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church: Pray for Rev. Jeff Glover, our church planter in Soldotna, AK as he shepherds the flock and trains men as officers who will help him do the same.

Rev. Alister & Sarah Torrens (Ukraine): Alister hopes to make another trip back to Ukraine in the next few weeks. Pray for the timing and logistics of this endeavor, that God keeps him safe and blesses his ministry there. Pray for Sarah and the children, back in Northern Ireland, while he is gone. And, of course, continue to pray for those in Ukraine, suffering the ravages of this war, that they would be spared and the war would soon come to an end.

Announcements

Church Directory: Drafts of the updated directory can be reviewed during the Coffee Hour today and next Sunday. Please correct any errors you find. Final copies will be available January 22.

Covenant Women: Continuing with our small group model, we will be reading through Ezra and Nehemiah this winter. Grab a study from the literature table if you like, and please let us know if you are looking for a partner or a group.

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.