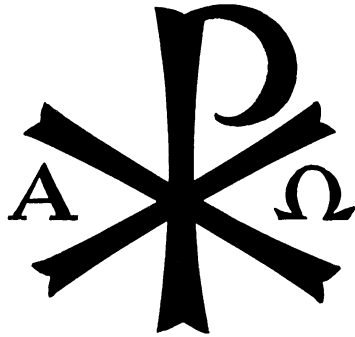


LORD'S DAY

April 23, 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

Almighty God, who has given a day of rest to your people, and, through your Spirit in the church, has consecrated the first day of the week to be a perpetual memorial of your Son's resurrection: Grant that we may so use your gift that, refreshed and strengthened in soul and body, we may serve you faithfully all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ 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, 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.

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 185

MAJESTIC SWEETNESS SITS ENTHRONED

***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

"No Greater Love"

Romans 12.9-21

Rev. Ron Gonzales

*Song of Response

Hymn No. 186

ONE THERE IS, ABOVE ALL OTHERS

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 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 Thanksgiving**

Hymn No. 55

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

Gatherings

Covenant Women: Continuing with their small group model, the women are reading through Ezra and Nehemiah this winter. If you are interested in doing so as well, grab a study from the literature table, and let Jenni Early or Chris McBean know if you are looking for a partner or a group.

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 Romans 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.

Sermon Notes: "No Greater Love" (Romans 12.9-21)

Prayer Concerns

Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church: Pray for Rev. Craig Harris, our church planter in Yakima, that the Lord strengthens and uses him as he reaches out with Christ's love to many who are hungry to hear and respond to the gospel.

The Carpenter Family: Pray that Eric and his family know God's peace and comfort as they mourn the passing of George.

Rev. Tom & Melissa Manning were very encouraged by Tom's recent PET scan, which showed that his lymphoma had diminished in activity by 50%. In addition to the work he is doing training new missionaries at Frontiers headquarters, Tom and Melissa are also coaching, via teleconference calls, several couples who are leading teams in the Middle East, and in August will be making a trip to Turkey to visit some of them and to expose some younger adults who are considering careers in missions. Pray for Tom's continue health and for their ongoing ministry.

The Persecuted Church: There are 42 million Christians out of 52 million people in *Kenya*. Though it is a majority-Christian nation, a growing threat of Islamic radicalism exists, particularly in the Northeast and coastal regions where there is a strong al-Shabab presence. Converts in these areas live under constant threat of attack, even from their closest relatives. Pray for the church, that it grows in strength and Christlikeness through the suffering it is enduring. Pray for new believers who are often lured away from the faith by economic enticements. And pray for those who have suffered severe trauma at the hands of radical extremists.

Sufficient Grace: The Lord said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12.9). Pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Nancy Hoeft, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers* and *Dani Parker* experience this as well, that each finds God's grace sufficient for all of their needs.

Announcements

Covenant Women will meet to discuss the books of Ezra and Nehemiah on Wednesday, May 17, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the church. Please come, whether you have done the study or not. And bring a finger-food to share.

Explanation of Cover Symbol

The Chi Rho symbol is one of the most ancient Christian symbols. XP, the first two letters of the Greek "Christ," is an abbreviation of the name of the Lord. This symbol is often, as here, accompanied with other symbols, in this case "Alpha" and "Omega," the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The symbol originates from Revelation 22.13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (cf. Revelation 1.8, 17; 21.6). This particular symbol dates from the first few centuries of the Christian era and is often found on tombs.