

# PENTECOST

May 19, 2024



# 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](mailto: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**

O God, who makes Thyself known in the stillness: Make me to know Thy presence in this sacred place; make me to be of the company of brave saints who have worshiped here in spirit and in truth. Through the voices of men and the instruments of praise lift my heart to Thee and so purify my life that, going forth, I may go in Thy strength and love; 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**

O Lord, no day of our lives has passed that has not proved us guilty in your sight. Prayers have been uttered from prayerless hearts. Praise has often been praiseless sound. Our best services are filthy rags. All things in us call for our rejection, yet all things in Christ plead our acceptance. Grant us to hear your voice assuring us that by your stripes we are healed; that you were bruised for our iniquities, that you became sin for us that we might become righteous in you. Grant that by resting in your righteousness we may hereafter walk in newness of life and run hard after your commandments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

## Assurance of Pardon

Micah 7.18-19

### \*Song of Praise to Christ

*Hymn No. 159*

*O SAVIOR, PRECIOUS SAVIOR*

### \*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' Creed<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> 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

“Sin’s Downward Spiral”

Genesis 19.30-38

Rev. Ron Gonzales

#### \*Song of Response

*Hymn No. 532*

TEACH ME, O LORD, THY HOLY WAY

### 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.*

## **-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) and partaking of the bread and the cup. Wine is served in the clear cups, grape juice in the colored cups. 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**

Numbers 6.24-26

---

### **Gatherings**

*The Women of Covenant* will meet monthly this summer for book club. The first book, *5 Minutes in Church History*, by Stephen Nichols, will be discussed May 29, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, at the church. A list of the other books, and the dates they will be discussed, has been posted on the bulletin board above the literature table. There will be two copies of each in the church library for those who prefer to borrow, rather than purchase them.

*A Men's Leadership Bible Study*, led by Kirk Alden, meets Fridays, 6:00-7:00 AM, in the Coffee Hour room. They are going through a series entitled, "Leadership by the Book," in which 52 leadership principles related to personal development, relationships, and life skills are studied from a biblical perspective. All men and older sons are invited.

*NEW TIME: The Men's Study through the Gospel of John*, led by Paul Carmichael, Jacob Schroeder, and Pastor Ron, now meets Thursdays, from 6:00 to 7:00 AM, in the Coffee Hour room. The questions for this week's study can be found on the literature table. All men are invited.

*Home Fellowship Group*, led by Pastor Ron, meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Chad and Heidi Leinwebers', from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. They are studying Genesis, and all 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 Coffee Hour room, to pray for one another, for the kingdom, and the world. Please join us.

**Sermon Notes: "Sin's Downward Spiral" (Genesis 19.30-38)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*The Keeper of Our Lives:* The psalmist writes, “The LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore” (Ps 121.5-8). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Kristi Alden, Leslie Carmichael, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Rick Vickie Myers,* and *Jacob Schroeder* know God’s protective and comforting hand in the week ahead.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 33 million Christians out of 270 million people living in *Indonesia*. The church has been wracked with adversity due to earthquakes and church bombings since 2016. Anti-conversion and blasphemy laws also pose a challenge, and churches that practice evangelism have been targeted by radical Islamic groups. Pray that God comforts those who are suffering. Pray that he grants wisdom and perseverance to new converts. And pray that he opens the eyes of Indonesian Muslims and draws them to himself.

*Redeemer Presbyterian Church:* Our mission church in Soldotna, AK, is still without a pastor. Pray for these brothers and sisters, that God holds them together in truth and love as they wait upon him for their next pastor, and that they continue to serve one another and their community well as they wait.

*Rev. Alister & Sarah Torrens (Ukraine):* Pray for Alister as he travels back and forth, between Northern Ireland and Ukraine, to teach classes at the seminary. Pray for his safety and the safety of the students. Pray for Sarah and the children while he is away. And, of course, pray that lives are spared and the war soon comes to an end.

## **Announcements**

*Visitors:* Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and would love to have you join us for some refreshments and fellowship following the service.

### **Explanation of the 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.