

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026



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

O Lord, who for our sake fasted forty days and forty nights: Give us the grace to follow you in self-denial, that we might serve you in true righteousness and holiness and live to your glory, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 105.1-7

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 57

HALLELUJAH, PRAISE JEHOVAH, O MY SOUL

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, you promised that if we confess our sins, you are faithful and just and will forgive us. Humbly we come, seeking your forgiveness; that we may know the joy of your presence, the light of your face. You alone know our hearts: how often we have offended you, how often we have offended others. Forgive us, Lord, for every unkind thought, every false word, every wrong act. Forgive us, for we have lived not for you, but for ourselves. Forgive us for failing to give you thanks, for our neglect of prayer, our ignorance of your Word, our loss of purpose. Heavenly Father, have mercy on us. Create in us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us; by the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 310

REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING

***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

“The Offense of the Gospel”

John 6.52-59

Rev. Ron Gonzales

*Song of Response

Hymn No. 646

JESUS, THOU JOY OF LOVING HEARTS

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.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

-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. 693

BLESSED ASSURANCE

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

Gatherings

Home Fellowship Group, led by Pastor Ron, meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Chad and Heidi Leinwebers', from 6:00 to 7:30 PM, for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. This year they will be studying the Gospel of John, in tandem with the Sunday sermon series. All are welcome!

Men's & High School Boys' Bible & Catechism Study meets Mondays, at 6:30 PM, at the church, and runs through March 30. The study is intended to teach the core tenets of the faith and equip the believer to challenge the cultural narratives of our day, especially concerning where we find meaning and purpose. For more information, talk to Chad Leinweber.

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.

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.

Women's Study & Fellowship: Women and teen girls (middle and high school) are invited to an allergy-friendly dinner and Bible study each Monday, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, through March 30. The women will study Daniel 1-6; the girls will study the book of James. All are welcome.

Sermon Notes: "The Offense of the Gospel" (John 6.52-59)

Prayer Concerns

Rev. Drew & Jessica Burdette (Boise): Pray for the Burdettes and the RUF staff as they reach out to Boise State University students with the gospel and seek to disciple those who know and are eager to grow in Christ.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church: We are happy to report that our church-plant in Post Falls, ID, is no longer a church-plant. On January 4, the congregation elected three elders and two deacons, and called Rev. Seth Miller (the church-planter) to be their pastor. The men were ordained and installed into office this past Sunday evening by our presbytery. Immanuel is now a “particular” or fully self-governed PCA church. Praise God!

The Persecuted Church: Christians comprise nearly sixty percent of the 110 million people living in *Ethiopia*, though they are targeted by radical Islamic extremists. In the past few years there has been a significant rise in violence, which has displaced millions of believers. In some areas, Christians have been denied access to community resources and ostracized from society. In other areas, whole churches have been attacked. Pray for those who have been cut off from their families. Pray they are strengthened in God’s grace. And pray that, despite the persecution, the church in Ethiopia flourishes.

Refuge & Joy: David prayed, “Let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you” (Ps 5.11). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Kirk & Kristi Alden, Sandy Cupolillo, Judie Jud, Theresa Krumbah, Patton McBean, Rick Myers, and Doreen Teall* take refuge in the Lord and are filled with joy.

Announcements

New Church Directories are available in the church office. If you haven’t received one, ask an elder or drop by the office during the Coffee Hour.

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

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 NIKΑ means “He conquers.” The symbol then reads, “Jesus Christ Conquers by the Cross” or “Jesus Christ, Victor.”