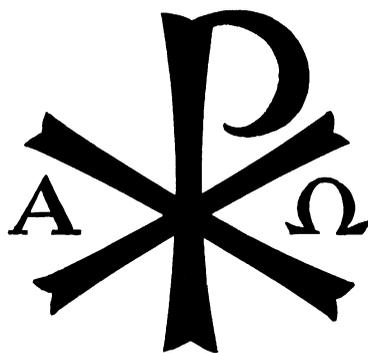


Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026



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

*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

Holy and loving God, as we worship you today, we long for your Spirit to both comfort and challenge us, to help us become more holy and more loving. In a world that does not understand repentance, we pray for new understanding, humility, patience, and discipline that will help us die to sin and live for Jesus. 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, 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.

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 164

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

***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

“Suffering the World’s Hatred”

John 7.1-13

Rev. Ron Gonzales

*Song of Response

Hymn No. 485

O THOU THAT HEAR’ST WHEN SINNERS CRY

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. 55

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

-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 5:00 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: "Suffering the World's Hatred" (John 7.1-13)

Prayer Concerns

The Christian Aid Center cares for the hurting and needy in our community. Pray that God uses their staff and volunteers to convey his love and grace to those they serve, and pray for those from Covenant who will serve there tomorrow night, that they too will be ministers of his love and grace.

Rev. Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan): Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team as they minister to the Yakama people, that God uses them to convey the love of Christ to many, and that through their witness a great number on the reservation come to know the Savior and grow in him.

The Persecuted Church: There are 47 million followers of Christ out of 49 million people in *Colombia*, yet church leaders are harassed, extorted and even murdered by guerrillas and other criminal elements. The violence is often the result of Christians supporting human rights or peace agreements that restrict illegal activities of militant groups. Christian missionaries and new converts also face imprisonment, physical abuse, and the confiscation of property. Pray that Christians remain strong in their faith despite the opposition, and that pastors have the support they need to spread the gospel and to build up the saints.

Plans for Welfare, Not for Evil: Jeremiah wrote to the Israelites suffering in exile, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jer 29.11). In addition to strength and healing, pray that this week *Kirk & Kristi Alden, Sandy Cupolillo, Duane & Judie Jud, Theresa Krumbah, Patton McBean, Rick Myers, and Doreen Teall* rest confidently in God’s good plans for them.

Announcements

Congregational Meeting: There will be a congregational meeting after church, on March 22, at which the elders will share with the body the path forward in calling our next pastor and our role in it. There will be plenty of time for Q&A, as well as prayer. Please plan to attend.

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.