

LORD'S DAY

April 26, 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 God, we joyously come together to worship, realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are here. We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts, for you are there. We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you; our ears to be unstopped, that we may hear you; our minds to be sensitive, that we may know you; our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you. Grant this, O Lord, as each has need. And grant that our worship is a delight to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 95.1-7

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 119

I SING THE ALMIGHTY POWER OF GOD

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Lord Jesus, forgive us and help us. We are slow to learn, prone to forget, and weak to climb. We are in the foothills when we should be on the heights. We are pained by our graceless hearts, our prayerless days, our poverty of love, our sloth in the heavenly race, our sullied consciences, our wasted hours, and our unspent opportunities. We are blind while the light shines around us. Take the scales from our eyes and grind to dust our hearts of unbelief. Make it our greatest joy to study, meditate, and gaze upon you; to sit like Mary at your feet, to lean like John on your breast, to appeal like Peter to your love, to count like Paul all things rubbish compared to knowing and gaining you. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 165

YE SERVANTS OF GOD, YOUR MASTER PROCLAIM

***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.

Congregational Petitions and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“A Matter of Life and Death”

John 8.48-59

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 457

COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

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) and partaking of the bread and the cup. Wine is served in the clear cups, grape juice in colored the 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. 565

ALL FOR JESUS!

-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. They are studying the Gospel of John in tandem with the Sunday sermon series. All are welcome!

The Men's & High School Boys' Bible & Catechism Study is on break this month. It will resume Monday, May 4.

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.

Sermon Notes: "A Matter of Life and Death" (John 8.48-59)

Prayer Concerns

Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church (Yakima): Pray for the elders and Pastor Harris, as they lead the congregation. Pray for the body as they seek to grow in grace. Pray they reflect the character of the Lord Jesus and are used by him to touch and bless the lives of many.

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 *Kirk & Kristi Alden, Sandy Cupolillo, Juliana Hallowell, Judie Jud, Bryce Krueger, Theresa Krumbah, Patton McBean, Rick Myers, and Doreen Teall* know God’s protective hand in the week ahead.

Rev. Tom & Melissa Manning’s ministry of helping team leaders through online coaching, counseling, and leadership development continues, as well as discipling younger men and women at Frontiers’ headquarters, who are preparing to go to the Middle East. Pray for them as they carry out this important work of discipleship. And continue praying for Tom’s ongoing cancer treatment.

The Persecuted Church: There are 15 million Christians out of 25 million people living in *Cameroon*. Though a majority Christian nation, the country is divided, with parts of it dominated by Islam. In these regions, converting to Christianity carries significant risk of violence or ostracism from family and community. And northern Cameroon is subject to attacks by Boko Haram, the Islamic extremist group that target Christians. Pray for those facing such threats because of their faith, and especially for those believed to be opposing the government; they are often tortured and killed.

Announcements

The Women of Covenant are warmly invited to join the 3rd Annual Summer Book Club. They begin May 20, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, with a discussion of C. S. Lewis’, *That Hideous Strength*. Additional dates and book titles will be announced.

Explanation of the 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.