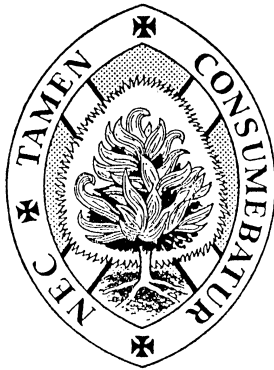


# LORD'S DAY

May 3, 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, teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me when I do, for I cannot seek you unless you first teach me, nor find you unless you first reveal yourself to me. Let me seek you in longing, and long for you in seeking. Let me find you in love and love you in finding.

— Ambrose of Milan, AD 339-397

### **\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 103.1-5, 15-22

### **\*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

1 Peter 2.24-25

### \*Song of Praise to Christ

*Hymn No. 295*

*CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS*

### \*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>

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<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

“Opening Blind Eyes”

John 9.1-41

Rev. Ron Gonzales

#### \*Song of Response

*Hymn No. 460*

AMAZING GRACE!

#### 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. 510*

*THOU HIDDEN SOURCE OF CALM REPOSE*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

### \*Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

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### 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.

*The Women of Covenant* are warmly invited to join the 3rd Annual Summer Book Club, which begins May 20, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, with a discussion of C. S. Lewis', *That Hideous Strength*. That will be followed on June 17 with a discussion of two short books: *A Call to Prayer*, by J. C. Ryle, and *Praying the Bible*, by Donald S. Whitney. On July 15, they will discuss John Bunyan's, *Pilgrim's Progress*. And on August 12, the discussion will be of *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley. There are copies of all the books in the church library, if you would like to borrow one.

## **Sermon Notes: "Opening Blind Eyes" (John 9.1-41)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*God Hears Our Every Cry:* The psalmist prayed, “I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live” (Ps 116.1-2). In addition to strength and healing, pray that this week *Kirk & Kristi Alden, Paul Carmichael, Sandy Cupolillo, Juliana Hallowell, Judie Jud, Bryce Krueger, Theresa Krumbah, Patton McBean, Rick Myers, and Doreen Teall* confidently know God’s attentive care.

*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 over the last ten years. 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.

## **Announcements**

*Congregational Meeting, May 17:* The Ballot is set. The following 17 members have been nominated and are willing to serve on the Pastor Search Committee. Two weeks from today, we will meet after the worship service to choose 6 members from among those nominated. Please be in prayer for the process and, if you are a member, how you should vote. The nominees are Seth Alden, Paul Carmichael, Eric Carpenter, Eileen Davis, Jenni Early, Paul Green, Levi Harri, Jordan Hostetter, Lori Jameson, Jason Lynch, Barb Martin, Chris McBean, Nicole Miller, Cami Panther, Dave Panther, Rich Parker, and Karen Sippert.

### **Explanation of the Cover Symbol**

Since the time of the Reformation, the burning bush has been a symbol of the Church. The Latin words are taken from Exodus 3.2 and read “...and yet it was not consumed.” In one of his letters, Samuel Rutherford reminded his correspondent, “The bush has been burning these five thousand years, and no man yet saw the ashes of that fire.”