

LORD'S DAY

May 31, 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

Glorious Lord, it is the passion of our lives to worship you, the crown and glory of our souls to adore you. Enable us by your Spirit to do so now, that we may forget the world and be brought into the fullness of life as we gaze upon your beauty and holiness. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 145.1-12

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 23

GOD OF GODS, WE SOUND HIS PRAISES

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O God, our great shepherd, you tenderly gather us as lambs, carrying us with your all-embracing love. Yet, like sheep, we wander from you: following our own ways, ignoring your voice, distrusting your provisions. Forgive our stubborn rebellion, our hardened hearts, our lack of trust. Refresh us once again by your quiet waters of mercy and restore our souls by your redeeming love. Guide our paths, that we might follow you more closely. This we ask, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 53.4-6

*Song of Praise to Christ

Hymn No. 243

PRAISE THE SAVIOR NOW AND EVER

*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.

Recognizing Our Graduates

C.J. Early and Addi Miller

Prayer of the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“The Mystery of God”

John 10.22-42

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 103

HOLY GOD, WE PRAISE YOUR NAME

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. 300

BLESSING AND HONOR AND GLORY AND POWER

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

*Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

Gatherings

Home Fellowship Group, is on break for the summer. It will resume in September.

A Men's & High School Boys' Bible & Catechism Study meets Mondays, at 6:30 PM, at the church. 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.

The Women of Covenant: Book Club will next meet on June 17, from 6:30 to 8:00, to discuss two short books: *A Call to Prayer*, by J.C. Ryle, and *Praying the Bible*, by Donald S. Whitney. That will be followed on July 15, with a discussion of 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: "The Mystery of God" (John 10.22-42)

Prayer Concerns

God's Outstretched Arm: Jeremiah prayed, "Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you" (Jer 32.17). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Kirk & Kristi Alden, Paul Carmichael, Sandy Cupolillo, Juliana Hallowell, Judie Jud, Theresa Krumbah, Patton McBean, Rick Myers, and Doreen Teall* rest, knowing that God has everything well in hand; nothing is beyond his control.

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 Frontier's headquarters, who are preparing to go to the Middle East. Pray for the Mannings as they carry out this important work of discipleship. And pray for their travels to Egypt and Jordan, June 22 through July 5, to minister to team leaders on the field.

The Persecuted Church: There are only a few hundred Christians among the more than 15 million people living in *Somalia*. Those who convert from Islam are harassed, intimidated or killed. Christians with a Muslim background are often put to death on the spot if discovered by al-Shabab operatives. Pray that God sustains the faith and courage of Somali Christians, and that he provides them access to Bibles and opportunities to gather with one another for worship and prayer.

Trinity Presbyterian, our church-plant in Richland, is a year old and doing very well. Pray for Rev. Andrew Perkins, as he leads this church, and for those God has called to be a part of it. Pray that, together, they are growing in grace and in an ever-increasing love for the Savior.

Announcements

Congregational Meeting: We will have a brief congregational meeting following today's worship service regarding the Pastor Search Committee.

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.