The First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 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
Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal, you are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing; help us to praise you now for sending your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts wait, and to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and dominion, now and forever. Amen.

***Call to Worship** Psalm 24.7-10

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**
Hymn No. 198 *LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES!*

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin
Almighty and all holy Father: We confess ourselves unworthy of your unspeakable gift. We have not loved you as we ought, nor have we always been loving, kindhearted, and forgiving toward one another, as you, for Christ's sake, have been toward us. We have lived in selfishness and worldly pride, and the good gifts you have bestowed, we have not used to relieve the burdens of others. Pardon and blot out our offenses, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon Zephaniah 3.14-17

Lighting of the First Advent Candle
Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9.6-7
New Testament Reading Hebrews 1.1-3

***Song of Advent**
Hymn No. 196 *COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS*

***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[1]

[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 "Our Place in the World"
John 17.6-19
Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**
Hymn No. 450 *SO SEND I YOU*

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 the colored cups. We warmly invite to the Table all who have taken Christ as their Savior, are baptized, and are members of an evangelical 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. 195 *JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME*

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction** Numbers 6.24-26

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 preparation for Sunday's sermon series. All are invited.

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 on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, from 5:00 to 5:30 PM, in the Coffee Hour room, to pray for one another, for the kingdom, and the world. Please join us.

Sermon Notes: "Our Place in the World" (John 17.6-19)

Prayer Concerns

God Our Help: We read this promise in Isaiah: "For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you'" (Is 41.13). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Kirk & Kristi Alden, Eric Carpenter, Sandy Cupolillo, Steve Davis, Cherry Gonzales, Juliana Hallowell, Duane & Judie Jud, Theresa Krumbah, Patton McBean, Rick Myers,* and *Doreen Teall* are filled with courage as they rest in their Helper this week.

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.

The Persecuted Church: There are 6.5 million Christians out of 25 million people in *Burkina Faso*, a west African nation that has suffered an onslaught of deadly attacks on Christian churches by Islamic extremists, in which worshipers have been told to convert to Islam or die. Pray that those who have lost loved ones know God's comfort and grace. Pray that believers have the strength to remain firm in their faith as they face increased hostility. And pray that, as extremist ideologies sweep across the region, the truth of the gospel becomes more obvious and that many turn to God in faith.

Announcements

Christmas Party: In lieu of the December potluck, Pastor Ron and Cherry Gonzales would love to have you join them at their home, December 13, between 5:00 and 8:00 PM, for a time of fellowship, hot cider, treats and carols. If possible, bring a Christmas treat to share.

Men & Boys: Join us downstairs this coming Saturday at 8:00 AM for our monthly fellowship breakfast, and be sure to bring a friend!

Women's Holiday Events: On December 12 from 1:00 AM to 3:00 PM, women are invited to Eileen Davis's home to learn how to make chocolate confectionary delights. Please RSVP with Nicole Miller. On December 19 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, join us for a Christmas wrapping party at the church. Bring the presents you need to wrap. Wrapping paper, tape, scissors, and lunch will be provided. All are welcome.