

# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 11, 2018



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**

Almighty God, whose glory is above the heavens, praise waits for you in Zion! Out of your great mercy you have gathered us into your church. Receive the adoration of our hearts this day, and grant that we may so honor you, both in spirit and in outward form, that your name may be glorified through the worship of our lips and our hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 111.1-9

**Prayer of Adoration**

\*Song of Praise to God

# O God beyond All Praising

Lyrics: Michael Perry, 1982

Music: Gustav Holst, 1918



O God be - yond all prais - ing, we wor - ship you to - day  
The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,  
Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay;  
its fra - gile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - ery gift you send  
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown  
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:  
though small in mor - tal sta - ture, to hea - ven's gar - den grown:  
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
for Christ, your gift from hea - ven, from death has set us free,  
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - tor - y.  
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

## **-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-**

### **Confession of Sin**

O Lord, what evil have we not done? Or if there is evil that we have not done, what evil is there that we have not spoken? Or if there is any evil that we have not spoken, what evil is there that we have not thought to do? But you, O Lord, are good. You are merciful. You saw how deep we were sunk in death, and it was your power that drained dry the well of corruption in the depths of our hearts. All that you have asked of us was to deny our own wills and accept yours. Forgive us for every failure to do so, and help us to follow you in every way and always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

*Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Isaiah 12.1-2

### **\*Song of Praise to Christ**

*Hymn No. 305*

*ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE*

### **\*Confession of Faith**

What does God require in the fourth and fifth commandments?

**Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in public and private worship of God, rest from routine employment, serve the Lord and others, and so anticipate the eternal Sabbath. Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother, submitting to their godly discipline and direction.<sup>1</sup>**

—The New City Catechism, No. 10

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<sup>1</sup> “Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God” (Lev 19.3).

## **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-**

**Scripture Lesson**

Song of Songs 6.1-12

**Sermon**

“In Praise of the Bride”

Rev. Ron Gonzales

**\*Song of Response**

*Hymn No. 345*

*GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE SPOKEN*

## **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.*

words Thomas Ken, 1709; music Genevan Psalter, 1551; Public Domain

### **-OBSERVING THE SACRAMENT-**

## **The Lord's Supper**

We celebrate the Lord's Supper by coming forward 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 Church. By eating the bread and drinking of the cup, you are admitting that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Christ alone.

## **\*Song of Thanksgiving**

*Hymn No. 14*

NEW SONGS OF CELEBRATION RENDER

### **-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-**

## **\*Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

## **Postlude and Silent Prayer**

Grant, O Lord, that this week we might love you with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

\*Please stand if able.

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## **Our Nursery Helpers**

Worship

*Today:* Jenni Early

*Next Week:* Katie and Jack Leinweber

## **Gatherings**

*Kids' Quest* is a catechism class for children, ages 5 through elementary grades, taught by Pastor Ron. It meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month (September through May), from 3:30 to 4:45 PM, at the church.

*The Leinweber Home Fellowship Group* is on break until March or April.

*The Martin Home Fellowship Group*, led by Eric Carpenter and Steve Davis, meets at Kathy Martin's (213 Chapra St), the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. They are studying the Song of Songs and all are welcome.

*The Men's Group* meets Wednesdays, from 6:00 to 7:30 AM, at Pastor Ron's office, for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. The group is currently studying 2 Timothy and all are invited.

*Prayer Meeting:* We meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary, to pray for one another, the kingdom and our world. Please join us.

## **Sermon Notes: "In Praise of the Bride" (Song of Songs 6.1-12)**

1. Her Beauty

2. Her Strength

3. Her Holiness

4. Her Uniqueness

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Rev. Andrew Allen:* Pray the treatment Andrew is receiving continues to show good results, that it has an arresting effect on the cancer, and that he and Amy are kept in God's peace.

*Building Acquisition:* Pray for the leaders of Covenant and Crazy Love, as they continue to assess the building's needs and determine what is required to move forward.

*The Christian Aid Center* cares for many in our community who are hurting and in need. Pray that God continues to use its staff and volunteers to convey his love and grace to many.

*Coram Deo Presbyterian Church:* Pray for the Revs. Kyle Parker's and Matt Bostrom's church planting labors in Spokane, that they yield much fruit and the church is strengthened under their leadership.

*Mike Leinweber* (Chad's dad) is declining rapidly and is thought to have only a few weeks left. Pray that he is spared unnecessary pain; that Chad's brother and sister, and their families, are able to see him before he passes; and that God surrounds the family, and especially Betty, with his peace.

*Bret Reller* is home! He arrived in the States on Thursday. Praise God for keeping him and his team safe these past six months.

## **Announcements**

*Birthdays this Week:*

March 14                      Jacob Leinweber

*Christian Aid Dinner:* We are serving dinner at the Christian Aid Center tomorrow night. If you would like to help, either in preparing or serving the meal, please let Heidi Leinweber know.

*Good Friday Service:* Please join us March 30, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM, as we reflect on the passion and death of Christ, in preparation for Easter.

*Sunday School* is on break until April 8.

*Visitors:* Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and would love to have you join us downstairs, following the service, for refreshments and a time of fellowship.

### **Explanation of 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.