

LORD'S DAY

October 21, 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

Great are you, O Lord, and highly to be praised; great is your power and your wisdom immeasurable. We desire to praise you, human beings carrying the witness of our sin and the knowledge that you resist the proud. Stir us, we pray, to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. Amen.

—Adapted from Augustine's Confessions

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 22.23-24

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 9

ALL YOU THAT FEAR JEHOVAH'S NAME

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Our Father, forgive us for thinking small thoughts of you and for ignoring your immensity and greatness. Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget that you rule the nations and our small lives. Holy Spirit, we offend you in minimizing your power and squandering your gifts. We confess that our blindness to your glory, O triune God, has resulted in shallow confession, tepid conviction, and only mild repentance. Have mercy on us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

*Song of Praise to Christ

Glory, Glory, to Our King!

words Thomas Kelly, 1804
music Eileen Davis, 2008

1. Glo - ry glo - ry, to our King! Crowns un - fad - ing wreath His head;
 2. Je - sus is gone up on high: An - gels come to meet their King;
 3. Now be-hold Him high en-throned! Glo - ry beam-ing from His face;
 4. Je - sus, on Thy peo-ple shine; Warm our hearts and tune our tongues,

Je - sus is the name we sing; Je - sus ris - en from the dead;
 Shouts tri - um - phant rend the sky, While the Vic - tor's praise they sing;
 By a - dor - ing an - gels own'd, Lord of hol - i ness and grace:
 That with an - gels we may join, Share their bliss and swell their songs:

Je - sus, spoil - er of the grave; Je - sus, might - y now to save.
 "O - pen now, ye heav'n - ly gates! 'Tis the King of glo - ry waits."
 Oh for hearts and tongues to sing, "Glo - ry, glo - ry to our King."
 Glo - ry, hon - or, praise, and pow'r, Lord, be Thine for - ev - er - more.

***Confession of Faith**

How is the Word of God to be read and heard?

With diligence, preparation, and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith, store it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 42

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1.57-80

Sermon

“The Tender Mercies of the Lord”

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 6

O COME, MY SOUL, BLESS THOU THE LORD

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

¹ “All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim 3.16-17).

-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 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. 55

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

Closing Prayer

God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive. Grant us the grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ, that in every way we may prove to be your loving children, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Please stand if able.

Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

Today: Samantha Schroeder

Next Week: Nicole Miller

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 (October through May), from 3:30 to 4:45 PM, at the church.

The Leinweber Home Fellowship Group, led by Chad, meets at the Leinwebers' (60 Cranbrook Ln), on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, at 12:30 PM. For more information, see Chad. All (including children) are welcome.

The Martin Home Fellowship Group led by Eric Carpenter and Steve Davis, meets at Kathy Martin's (203 Chapra St), the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. They are studying the Gospel of Luke and all are welcome.

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

Prayer Meeting: We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, at 5:15 PM in the chapel, to pray for one another, the kingdom, and our world. Please join us.

Women's Study: A study of the Book of Acts, led by Cherry Gonzales, has just started. It meets Thursdays, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM at the church (childcare is provided), and all are welcome.

Sermon Notes: "The Tender Mercies of the Lord" (Luke 1.57-80)

1. The Circumcision of John *and* Zechariah (vv. 57-64)

2. A Blessing and a Prophecy (vv. 68-79)

3. Salvation's Double Grace (vv. 74-75, 77-78)

Prayer Concerns

Rev. Andrew Allen continues his battle with cancer. Pray the chemotherapy is effective, that he is granted strength to endure, and that he and Amy are kept in God's peace.

Christ Central Presbyterian Church: Pray for Rev. Greg Joines, our church planter in Corvallis, that God strengthens and blesses his labors as he gives himself to the city and the church he is planting.

Mike Givens: Pray for relief from the pain Mike is experiencing, and that God brings healing to his shoulder without the need for surgery.

Lori Jud continues to improve after having throat surgery. Pray for her complete healing. Praise that she is now allowed to swallow, take fluids orally from a sponge, and begin speaking.

Vickie Myers surgery went well. Pray that she is sustained by God's presence, that the procedure was successful, and that she is blessed with a complete and speedy recovery.

Alister & Sarah Torens (Kiev): Pray for healing for Sarah's back, that God protects their marriage and family, uses Alister's ministry at the seminary to equip leaders for the church in Eastern Europe, and gives direction to Alister's church planting efforts in Kiev.

Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries this Week:

October 21	Simeon Schroeder
October 22	Howard Reller
October 25	Ron Gonzales
October 27	Jenni Early
October 27	Rick and Vickie Myers

Reformation Sunday: Please join us next Sunday, at 6:00 PM, at Grace URC in Kennewick, for a combined service with our Reformed brothers and sisters from Kennewick and Sunnyside. A light dinner and fellowship will follow.

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

Explanation of 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."