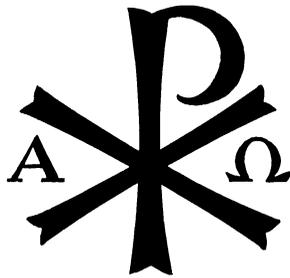


The Third Sunday in Advent

December 16, 2018



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Dr. Ron Gonzales, Minister

Office: 5 W Alder St, Ste 237 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 98.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Advent**

Hymn No. 208

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your great Name, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who possess more, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, and our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Cleanse us and change our very way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Mark 10.45

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 53.2-5

New Testament Reading Hebrews 2.14-15, 17

***Song of Advent**

Hymn No. 194

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

***Confession of Faith**

What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?

Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death. ¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 50

The Christmas Choir

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Luke 5.1-11

Sermon

"The Call to Discipleship"
Rev. Ron Gonzales

¹ "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep" (1 Thess 4.13-14).

*Song of Response

Oh Jesus Christ, Grow Now In Me

words Johann Casper Lavater 1780
translated by Elizabeth L. Smith 1860
music Ada Rose Gibbs 1865-1905
words and music alt. Eileen Davis 2018



1. Oh Je - sus Christ, grow now in me, and all things else re - cede;
2. In Your bright beams which on me fall, fade ev - 'ry e - vil thought;
3. More of Your glo - ry let me see, Oh Ho - ly, Wise, and True;
4. Fill me with glad - ness from a - bove, hold me by strength di - vine;
5. Make this poor self grow less and less, be all my life and aim;



My heart be dai - ly near - er You, from sin be dai - ly freed.
That I am no - thing, You are all, I would be dai - ly taught.
I would Your liv - ing im - age be, in joy and sor - row too.
Lord, let the glow of Your great love through all my be - ing shine.
Oh, make me dai - ly through Your grace more fit to bear Your Name.



Each day let Your sup - port - ing might my weak - ness still em - brace;



my dark - ness va - nish in Your light, Your life my death e - race.

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 (generally from the back of the sanctuary to the front, though you may commune at any time) 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 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 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. 200

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

Closing Prayer

Grant, O Lord, that what has been said with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Please stand if able.

Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

Today: Collie Parsons

Next Week: Nicole Miller

Gatherings

The Martin Home Fellowship Group led by Eric Carpenter and Ronnie Curfman, meets at Kathy Martin's (213 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 men 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.

The Psalm Sing is on break until January 6.

The Women's Study is taking the rest of the month off. They will resume their study of the book of Acts, on Thursday, January 10.

Sermon Notes: "The Call to Discipleship" (Luke 5.1-11)

1. Who were these men?
2. What did Jesus call them to?
3. What sort of hearts did they have?
4. How did God use them?

Prayer Concerns

Rev. Andrew Allen: Pray the drugs Andrew is taking arrest the cancer, 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.

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

Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries this Week:

December 17	Ronnie and Anna Curfman
December 19	Roberta Haer

The Children's Catechism Class is not meeting this month. A new class begins January 10, taught by Pastor Ron and Ronnie Curfman. The children will be learning *The New City Catechism*.

The Children's Choir is practicing at 9:15 this morning next Sunday in preparation for the Christmas Eve Service. All children are invited.

Christmas Caroling & Hayride: At 4:00 PM today, we will carol from a horse-drawn covered wagon, then return to the church for drinks and Christmas treats. The church will provide the beverages; please bring a treat to share. Due to limited space, there will be three trips. Please sign up during the coffee hour for your preferred time.

Christmas Eve Service: Please join us at 6:00 PM on Christmas Eve, as we gather with Crazy Love Church for a Service of Lessons and Carols.

Family Photos: David Gonzales, Pastor Ron and Cherry's son, has offered to take family photos (his gift to us) after the Christmas Eve service, for any who would like them. They will be available for you to access after Christmas.

Session Meeting: The elders are meeting this Thursday, at 5:30 PM, to pray for and conduct the business of the church. Pray for them as they do, and please let them know how they can be praying for you.