

The First Sunday in Advent

December 2, 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, we gather in this place not because we are deserving of your love, nor because we have lived faithfully before your face. We gather here because you called us. You loved us before we could love you. You have given your Son for our salvation. For this we join all creation in blessing you, praising you, and thanking you. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! You are great, and greatly to be praised. As we offer our praise, we long for you to mold us in the image of your Son, whose death and resurrection give us hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 34.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 26

TELL OUT, MY SOUL, THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, we long to enter your presence and worship you face to face, awed by your majesty, greatness and glory, encouraged by your steadfast love. Yet there is often a coldness in our hearts, a hardness and an unwillingness to admit our sin and need of you. Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. Come near and strengthen us until Christ reigns supreme within; in every thought, word, and deed. Give us a faith that purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to you, and always clings to the cross; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Jeremiah 33.14-16

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

What is the church?

God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another. ¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 48

Prayer for the Church and the World

¹ "But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth" (2 Thess 2.13).

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Luke 4.14-30

Sermon

“The Year of the Lord’s Favor”

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 460

AMAZING GRACE!

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. 195

JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

Closing Prayer

O Lord, our never failing Help: Keep us under your merciful protection, and make us always to fear and love your holy Name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Please stand if able.

Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

Today: Jenni Early

Next Week: Abigail and Annie Carpenter

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 5:00 PM, at the church.

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.

Psalm Sing: The Schroeders are hosting the Psalm Sing on December 2 and 9 this month, at 6:30 PM, at their home (55 Buttonquail Ln). All ages and voices are welcome.

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

Sermon Notes: "The Year of the Lord's Favor" (Luke 4.14-30)

1. Grace and Mercy for All Who Are Troubled

2. The Disinterest and Rejection of Many

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.

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

Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan): Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team as they share God's love this Christmas season with the Yakama people. May their words and deeds bring hope and healing to many.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church: Pray for the congregation in Soldatna, AK as they look for a new pastor. May God lead and protect the church and make it a vital witness on the Kenai Peninsula.

Announcements

Birthdays this Week:

December 6	Duane Jud
December 8	Addilyn Chabre

Christmas Caroling & Hayride: On December 16, at 4:00 PM, 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. Because of limited space, there will be at least two trips. Please sign up during the coffee hour for your preferred trip.

Christmas Choir practice resumes today, at 11:45 AM. The choir will sing in our worship service on December 16. All are welcome!

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.

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

In the Greek language of the early Christian era abbreviations were typically the first and last letters of words, often with a superscription to indicate the missing letters. IC is a standard abbreviation of IHCOYC, the Greek "Jesus," XC the abbreviation of XPICTOC, "Christ"; and NIKΑ means "He conquers." The symbol then reads, "Jesus Christ Conquers by the Cross" or "Jesus Christ, Victor."