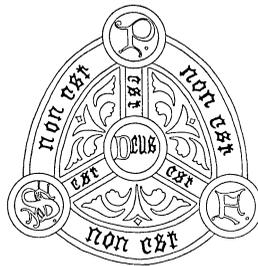


The Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 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

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 117.1-2

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Advent**

Hymn No. 203

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, O God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Old Testament Reading Malachi 3.1

New Testament Reading Matthew 3.1-3

***Song of Advent**

Hymn No. 241

THOU DOST REIGN ON HIGH

***Confession of Faith**

Where is Christ now?

Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling his kingdom and interceding for us, until he returns to judge and renew the whole world.¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 49

Prayer for the Church and the World

¹ “He raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come” (Eph. 1.20-21).

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Luke 4.31-44

Sermon

“One Sabbath in Capernaum”

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 508

JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL

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. 213

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

*Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

Closing Prayer

Grant, O Lord, that the words we have heard this day, may, through your grace, be so grafted into our hearts, that they bring forth in us faith, hope, and especially love, to the honor and praise of your Name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Please stand if able.

Our Nursery Helpers

Worship

Today: Abigail and Annie Carpenter

Next Week: Collie Parsons

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 a Psalm Sing, tonight at 6:30, but are taking the rest of the month off. All ages and voices are welcome.

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: "One Sabbath in Capernaum" (Luke 4.31-44)

1. Authority Over Demons

2. Authority Over Sickness

3. Authority Over Sin and Death

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.

Coram Deo Presbyterian Church (Spokane), pastored by Rev. Kyle Parker, is ordaining officers and becoming a self-governed church today. Pray for their continued faithfulness to gospel-centered ministry, and praise God for all he has done in and through them these past four years.

Brian & Gail Frey: Pray for Brian and the RUF staff, as they reach out to students on the Boise State campus, that God goes before them, softens hearts, and grants saving faith to many.

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

Announcements

Birthdays this Week:

December 9 Hannah Alden

The Children's Choir is practicing at 9:15 AM, today and on December 16 and 23, in preparation for the Christmas Eve Service. All children are invited.

Christmas Caroling & Hayride: Next Sunday, 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. Due to limited space, there will be three trips. Please sign up during the coffee hour for your preferred time.

The Christmas Choir is practicing again today, at 11:45 AM. The choir will sing in our worship service next Sunday.

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

The Shield of the Holy Trinity is frequently found in stained glass windows of medieval churches. This emblem expresses the Christian doctrine of the triunity of Almighty God, a truth taught in Scripture and affirmed by the Council of Constantinople in AD 381.