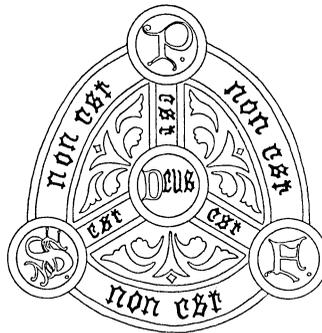


The First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2020



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Dr. Ron Gonzales, Minister

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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

Lord, what a change within us one short hour
Spent in Thy presence will prevail to make!
What heavy burdens from our bosoms take,
What parched grounds refresh, as with a shower!
We kneel, and all around us seems to lower;
We rise, and all the distant and the near,
Stands forth in sunny outline, brave and clear;
We kneel, how weak! — We rise, how full of power!
Why, therefore, should we do ourselves this wrong
Or others, that we are not always strong,
That we are ever overborne with care,
That we should ever weak or heartless be,
Anxious or troubled, when with us is prayer,
And joy, and strength, and courage are with Thee!

— Archbishop Richard Chenevix Trench, AD 1807-1886

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 145.8-21

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 115

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Father, forgive us for the things we have done that make us feel uncomfortable in your presence. For the front that we polish so carefully for men to see does not deceive you. You know every thought that has left its shadow on our memory, every motive that curdled something sweet within us. We acknowledge that we have desired what we should not have. We have toyed with what we knew was not for us. We have been preoccupied with self-interest. We have invited unclean thoughts into our minds and entertained them as honored guests. Our ears have often been deaf to your whisper. Our eyes have often been blind to the signs of your guidance. Make us willing to be changed, even though it requires surgery of the soul and the therapy of discipline. Make our hearts warm and soft, that we may receive and accept the blessing of your forgiveness, the benediction of your “Depart in peace...and sin no more”; for we ask it in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Silently Add Your Own Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 1.14-21

***Song of Faith in Christ**

Hymn No. 308

JESUS PAID IT ALL

***Confession of Faith**

What does God require in the first, second, and third commandments?

First that we know and trust God as the only true and living God. Second, that we avoid all idolatry and do not worship God improperly. Third, that we treat God’s name with fear and reverence, honoring also his Word and works.¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 9

¹ “It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you” (Dt 6.13-14).

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Scripture Lesson

Revelation 3.7-13

Sermon

“Weakness and the Open Door”
Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 450

SO SEND I YOU

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 rings 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. 585

TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

Postlude

*Please stand if able

Our Nursery Helpers

Today: Jenni Early

Next Week: Kathy Martin

Gatherings

A Children's Catechism Class, taught by Ronnie Curfman and Pastor Ron, meets the first and third Thursdays of each month, during the school year, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, at the church.

The Tuesday Night Home Fellowship Group, led by Eric Carpenter and Pastor Ron, meets at Kathy Martin's (213 Chapra St) on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. They are studying Revelation, considering each passage before it is preached. All are welcome.

A Men's Leadership Bible Study, led by Kirk Alden, meets at Tate's Umapine Mercantile on Mondays, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. All men are invited. For more information, talk to Kirk.

The Men's Group, led by Pastor Ron, meets Wednesdays, from 6:00 to 7:30 AM in the chapel, for Bible study, fellowship and prayer. The group is studying Joshua 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 Women's Study, led by Cherry Gonzales and Christina McBean, meets Thursdays, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, in the chapel. The group is studying 1 Peter and all are invited.

Sermon Notes: "Weakness and the Open Door" (Revelation 3.7-13)

Prayer Concerns

Mike Givens is still at Regency at the Park but making tremendous progress. Pray that he is soon able to go home and for protection from further injuries.

Tom Manning (Turkey): Pray the course of treatment Tom has chosen for his lymphoma proves effective and that he knows God's presence and is strengthened in grace each day.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church: Pray for Rev. Jeff Glover, our church planter in Soldotna AK, that God strengthens him and blesses his labors as he gives himself to the community and to the church he is planting.

Alister & Sarah Torrens (Ukraine): Pray for the Torrens as they give themselves to church planting in Kiev, for Alister's teaching responsibilities at the seminary, and that God grants them many opportunities to befriend and share the gospel with unbelievers.

Announcements

Birthdays this Week:

March 7 Rebekah Schroeder

Financial Update: The January financial statement has been posted to the church website. If you need the password to view it, Jacob Schroeder would be happy to give it to you.

Super & Singing: The Schroeders (55 Buttonquail Ln) are hosting a light supper and Psalm/Hymn Sing tonight. Dinner will be at 5:30, followed by singing at 6:30. Side dishes or desserts are welcome but not required. Soup and bread will be provided.

Sunday School is on break during the month of March. It will resume April 5.

Visitors: Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and hope you will join us after the service for some refreshments and a time of fellowship.

Explanation of the Cover Symbol

The Shield of the Holy Trinity is frequently found in stained glass windows of medieval churches. This emblem expresses the doctrine of the triunity of Almighty God, a truth taught in Scripture and affirmed by the Council of Constantinople in AD 381. Positively, two affirmations are made about each person of the Godhead. Reading from the center circle outward: God (Deus) is (est) Father (P is for Pater), God is Son (F is for Filius), and God is Holy Spirit (SS is for Spiritus Sanctus). Reading from the outer circles inward: the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. Negatively, two affirmations are likewise made about each person of the Godhead. Reading clockwise and counter-clockwise from one outer circle to the other two: the Father is not (non est) the Son or the Holy Spirit, the Son is not the Father or the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son.