

LORD'S DAY

August 23, 2020



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

Lord of all power and might, Author and Giver of all good things: As we gather in your presence, graft in our hearts the love of your Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and by your great mercy keep us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 98.1-6

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 2

O WORSHIP THE KING

Confession of Faith

Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?

Yes, because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, also renews us by his Spirit; so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; so that we may be assured of our faith by the fruits; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 34

-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.

¹ "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (1 Pet 2.9-12).

Congregational Petitions and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

"Faithful Witnesses"
Revelation 11.1-14
Rev. Ron Gonzales

Reflection and the 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

All who are baptized Christians, living under the authority of Christ and his body, the church, are warmly invited to partake of the Supper. Simply tell the elder or deacon who passes before you whether you prefer wine or grape juice. We will wait and partake together after everyone has been served. By eating the bread and drinking 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 but commend to you instead 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**

Numbers 6.24-26

*Please stand if able.

Sermon Notes: "Faithful Witnesses" (Revelation 11.1-14)

Prayer Concerns

Inheritors of the Promise: The writer of Hebrews says, “We desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Heb 6.11-12). Pray that *Eric Carpenter, Roberta Haer, Tom Manning, Clint & Elizabeth Miller, and Vickie Myers* might have that same assurance of hope and be growing in faith and patience as they look to Christ in the week ahead.

The Persecuted Church: There are approximately 4 million Christians out of 204 million people who live in *Pakistan*, which is an Islamic nation. Historic churches are free to worship, but they are heavily monitored and often targeted for attack. Churches that are active in outreach face even more persecution. In general, Christians are treated as second-class citizens; the country’s anti-blasphemy laws are disproportionately applied to them, making it dangerous to live out one’s faith. Pray for the protection of converts from a Muslim background who are particularly vulnerable to persecution, and for Christians who are accused under anti-blasphemy laws. Ask God to give them strength and hope amidst their trials, and for justice to prevail.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church: Pray for Rev. Jeff Glover, our church planter in Soldotna, AK as he trains men to serve as officers who will share in the leadership of the church.

Alistair & Sarah Torrens (Ukraine): Pray for the Torrens as they give themselves to planting a new church in Kiev, for Alistair’s teaching responsibilities at the seminary, and that God blesses their efforts at reaching out to unbelievers around them.

Announcements

Financial Update: The July 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.

Visitors: Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and look forward to meeting you.

Explanation of the 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.”