

# LORD'S DAY

August 9, 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**

O God, teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me when I do, for I cannot seek you unless you first teach me, nor find you unless you first reveal yourself to me. Let me seek you in longing, and long for you in seeking. Let me find you in love, and love you in finding.

-Ambrose of Milan, AD 339-397

### **\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 107.1-9

### **\*Prayer of Adoration**

### **\*Song of Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 4*

*ALL PRAISE TO GOD, WHO REIGNS ABOVE*

### **Confession of Faith**

What do justification and sanctification mean?

**Justification means our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us.<sup>1</sup>**

—The New City Catechism, No. 32

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<sup>1</sup> "To those who are elect exiles...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you" (1 Pet 1.1-2).

## **-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-**

### **Confession of Sin**

O Lord, you promised that if we confess our sins, you are faithful and just and will forgive us. Humbly we come, seeking your forgiveness; that we may know the joy of your presence, the light of your face. You alone know our hearts: how often we have offended you, how often we have offended others. Forgive us, Lord, for every unkind thought, every false word, every wrong act. Forgive us, for we have lived not for you, but for ourselves. Forgive us for failing to give you thanks, for our neglect of prayer, our ignorance of your Word, our loss of purpose. Heavenly Father, have mercy on us. Create in us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us; by the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Isaiah 55.1-2, 6-7

### **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.

## Scripture Reading

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!  
bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.  
The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.  
As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.  
For he knows our frame;  
he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass;  
he flourishes like a flower of the field;  
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.  
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting

on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,  
to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.  
The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the LORD, O you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his word,  
obeying the voice of his word!  
Bless the LORD, all his hosts,  
his ministers, who do his will!  
Bless the LORD, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul!

—Psalm 103.1-22

### **-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-**

**Sermon**

“Forgiven/Forgive”  
Matthew 18.21-35  
Rev. Pete Williamson

### **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.

### **\*Song of Thanksgiving**

*Hymn No. 252*

*WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS*

## **-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-**

### **\*Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

\*Please stand if able.

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## **Sermon Notes: "Forgiven/Forgive" (Matthew 18.21-35)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan):* Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team as they share the gospel with the Yakama people, that their words and deeds bring hope and healing to many on the reservation.

*Lori Jud (Duane and Judie's daughter-in-law)* went home to be with the Lord early on Thursday. Pray her husband, children and family are comforted and helped as they attend to final details and adjust to life without her presence.

*Pandemic:* Pray for healthcare workers who are caring for those with COVID-19, for their protection and for strength to endure the long hours they are serving. Pray for those suffering from the disease, that they fully recover. And pray for those doing research and seeking to develop a vaccine, that their efforts soon prove successful.

*The Peace of God:* Paul urged the Philippians, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus: (Ph 4.6-7). Pray that the hearts and minds of *Eric Carpenter, Roberta Haer, Tom Manning, Clint & Elizabeth Miller, and Vickie Myers* are guarded this week by God's peace as they trust him with every need and every anxious thought.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are only a few hundred Christians out of 15 million people who live in *Somalia*, a country mired in civil war, tribalism and violent Islamic militancy. Conversion to Christianity is regarded as a betrayal of the Somali family and clan. If Somalis are suspected of being converts, family members and clan leaders will harass, intimidate and even kill them. Consequently, new believers often hide their faith in order to survive. Pray for their protection, but also that they might have courage and hope amidst such persecution. And pray specifically for those who convert from Islam, that God will give them wisdom and access to a Bible.

## **Announcements**

*Directory Update:* We will be printing an updated church directory later this month. If your information has changed, or you would like to be in the directory, please let us know.

*Prayer Meeting:* We will meet this Tuesday, at 5:15 PM, in the sanctuary to pray for one another, for the kingdom, and the world. Please join us.

*Welcome!* We want to welcome Rev. Pete Williamson to Covenant. Pete is a PCA minister serving with Great Commandment Ministries in Tieton, WA. He formerly pastored in Bellingham, is a valued member of our Presbytery, and a dear friend of Pastor Ron's.