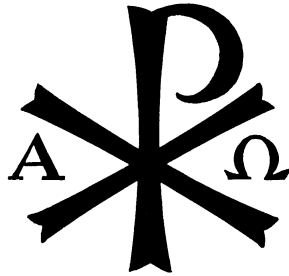


LORD'S DAY
September 13, 2020



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

Almighty God, who through the Lord Jesus Christ has overcome death, and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Draw our hearts to you this day, guide our minds, and control our wills, that we may be wholly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you desire, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 47.1-2, 6-7

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 101

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

Confession of Faith

How does the Holy Spirit help us?

The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, comforts us, guides us, gives us spiritual gifts and the desire to obey God; and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 37

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess that we are prone to evil and slothful in good. You alone know how often we have offended you: in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. But you, O Lord, have mercy on those who are ashamed of and sorry for their iniquities. Teach us to hate our offenses; cleanse us from our secret faults; forgive us our sins for the sake of your dear Son. And O most loving Father, help us, we pray, to live in your light and walk in your ways, in keeping with the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

¹ “And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” (Eph 6.17-18).

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 2.24-25

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“A Contest for the Souls of Men”

Revelation 13.1-10

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. 295

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

*Please stand if able.

Sermon Notes: "A Contest for the Souls of Men" (Revelation 13.1-10)

Prayer Concerns

The Christian Aid Center cares for many in our community who are hurting and in need. Pray that God continues to convey his love and grace to all those they serve.

The Persecuted Church: There are only a few thousand Christians out of 29.5 million people in *Yemen*. An ongoing civil war has led to Christians being abducted and killed. Open church activities are prohibited and leaving Islam is strictly forbidden. Muslims who decide to follow Jesus often face the death penalty. Pray for peace, as opposing forces continue to clash and leave Christians vulnerable. The instability in Yemen has created a refugee, food and healthcare crisis. Ask God to provide food, clean water, and relief for the people of Yemen. And pray that the secret believers from Muslim backgrounds will have courage and perseverance in their faith.

The Steadfast Love of the Lord: The psalmist prayed, "I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant. Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight" (Ps 119:75-77). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Eric Carpenter, Roberta Haer, Tom Manning, Clint & Elizabeth Miller, and Vickie Myers* might be comforted by God's steadfast love.

Announcements

Home Fellowship Group will resume September 22 at the Leinwebers', from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Led by Pastor Ron, the group will study Revelation, beginning with chapter 14. All are welcome!

Ladies, Missing Time Together to "Just Be?" Please join us for another outdoor fellowship in our shady yard at 7934 Mill Creek Rd, at 10:00 AM on September 26 (weather permitting). There will be refreshments and space to safely enjoy each other. Bring a mask in case it's needed, but while out in the fresh air, they won't be needed? If you have a portable lawn chair, please bring it as well, but mostly just bring your lovely selves to enjoy each other and God in His creation.

Session Meeting: The elders are meeting this Thursday, at 5:30 PM, to pray and conduct the business of the church. Pray for them as they do, and please let them know how they can pray for you.

Explanation of the Cover Symbol

The Chi Rho symbol is one of the most ancient Christian symbols. XP, the first two letters of the Greek "Christ," is an abbreviation of the name of the Lord. This symbol is often, as here, accompanied with other symbols, in the case "Alpha" and "Omega," the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet. The symbol originates from Revelation 22:13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (cf. Revelation 1:8, 17; 21:6). This particular symbol dates from the first few centuries of the Christian era and is often found on tombs.