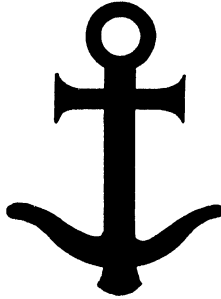


**LORD'S DAY**  
September 20, 2020



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, who makes Thyself known in the stillness:  
Make me to know Thy presence in this sacred place;  
make me to be of the company of brave saints  
who have worshiped here in spirit and in truth.  
Through the voices of men and the instruments of praise  
lift my heart to Thee and so purify my life that,  
going forth, I may go in Thy strength and love;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 104.24, 31-34

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**\*Song of Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 122*

*GOD ALL NATURE SINGS THY GLORY*

## **\*Confession of Faith**

What is prayer?

**Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God in praise, petition, confession of sin, and thanksgiving.<sup>1</sup>**

—The New City Catechism, No. 38

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

#### **Confession of Sin**

O Lord God, the heavens declare your glory, the earth your riches. We thank you for the treasures given us in Jesus; for the unclouded revelation of him in your Word, where we behold his character, grace and glory, as well as his sufferings, death and resurrection. We come to you in his all-prevailing name, with nothing of our own to plead: no works, no worthiness, no promises. We are often straying, often knowingly opposing your authority, often abusing your goodness. Impress us deeply with a sense of your presence; that you are about our paths, our ways, our lying down, and our end. Subdue in us the love of sin, and let us know the need of renewal as well as forgiveness; that we may wholeheartedly serve and enjoy you forever. This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

Zephaniah 3.16-17

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<sup>1</sup> "Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us" (Ps 62.8).

## **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**

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

1 John 2.18-25

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

### **Sermon**

“The Lie We Love to Believe”

Revelation 13.11-18

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. 301*

*JOIN ALL THE GLORIOUS NAMES*

**-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-**

**\*Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

\*Please stand if able.

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**Sermon Notes: "The Lie We Love to Believe" (Revelation 13.11-18)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

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

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 800,000 Christians out of 82 million people in Iran. Governed by Islamic law, the rights of Christians are heavily restricted. They are not allowed to share their faith, and it is illegal to produce Christian literature or hold church services in Farsi. Converts from Islam face severe persecution. If Christians attend an underground house church, they face the constant threat of arrest. Pray for those who are imprisoned, that God will give them hope and encouragement amidst their isolation. Pray that God will move Iran's leaders to grant more religious freedom to its people. And pray for secret believers who meet in house churches, that they will be protected and will be faithful witnesses to their countrymen.

*A Shield and Great Reward:* When Abram was tempted to doubt, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Do not be afraid Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward" (Gen 15.1). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Eric Carpenter, Roberta Haer, Tom Manning, Clint & Elizabeth Miller,* and *Vickie Myers* might also know the Lord as their protector and the great satisfier of their souls.

## **Announcements**

*Financial Update:* The August 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.

*Home Fellowship Group* begins this Tuesday 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, this Saturday (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.

### **Explanation of the Cover Symbol**

The anchor is an ancient Christian symbol for hope. It is derived from Hebrews 6.19: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul..." When combined with a cross it makes plain that Christian hope is in Christ and His redemption. The symbol was frequently used in this sense in the catacombs of ancient Rome.