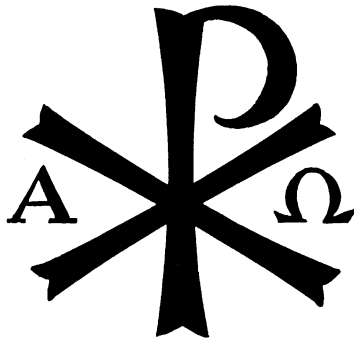


LORD'S DAY

October 18, 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

Father in heaven, we pray that you will in mercy look down upon us, your family, for whom the Lord Jesus was willing to be betrayed, given up into the hands of wicked men, and suffer death on the cross. Grant us the desires of our hearts this Lord's Day morning: to see you in your majesty and glory, to be renewed in our experience of your grace and love, and to hear your voice speaking in your Word. Help us, by your Spirit, to make a genuine and heartfelt offering of our praise, our love, and ourselves to you. Receive pleasure, this day, from your grateful people; for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 34.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 6

O COME, MY SOUL, BLESS THOU THE LORD

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed; not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires that we are unable to understand, but which are all known to you. We, therefore, flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we can delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

Micah 7.18-19

Confession of Faith

How is the Word of God to be read and heard?

With diligence, preparation, and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith, store it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 42

¹ “All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim 3.16-17).

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

“Where Sin Ultimately Leads”

Revelation 16.1-21

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. 562

ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

*Please stand if able.

Gatherings

Home Fellowship Group, led by Pastor Ron, meets at Chad and Heidi Leinweber's, the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. They are studying Revelation and all are welcome.

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

Prayer Meeting: We meet the second Tuesday of each month, at 5:15 PM in the sanctuary, to pray for one another, for the kingdom, and for the world. Please join us.

Sermon Notes: "Where Sin Ultimately Leads" (Revelation 16.1-21)

Prayer Concerns

A Divine Stronghold: David prayed, “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Ps 27.1) In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Eric Carpenter, Sandy Cupolillo, Roberta Haer, Judie Jude, Tom Manning, Clint & Elizabeth Miller, and Vickie Myers* might know God’s mighty presence and shielding care in the week ahead.

Tom & Melissa Manning (Turkey): Tom learned this week that his cancer is officially in remission. Praise God! Pray that his strength returns, for the follow-up care he will receive over the next six weeks before another MRI is done, for the outreach he and Melissa are doing in east Istanbul, and for their plans to travel back to the USA for the holidays.

The Persecuted Church: There are 1.4 million Christians out of 34 million people in *Saudi Arabia*, an Islamic nation ruled by an absolute monarchy. Saudi Arabia’s strict branch of Islam governs every aspect of life for its citizens. Openly practicing other religions is illegal. All Saudi citizens are required to be Muslim, and non-citizens of other faiths are expected to worship privately. Those who convert from Islam to Christianity are usually shunned by their families. Pray for isolated believers all over Saudi Arabia, who lack fellowship and community. They need discipleship and a sense of belonging. Pray that Christian Saudis will find ways to share the truth with their own family members. And pray that many Muslim Saudis will come to trust in Christ as their Savior.

Announcements

Visitors: Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and look forward to meeting you. If you have time, please join us for some fellowship outside immediately following the service.

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 this case “Alpha” and “Omega,” the first and last letters 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.