

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Dr. Ron Gonzales, Minister

66 S Palouse St | Walla Walla, WA 99362

(509) 522-1020 Email: office@covenantwallawalla.org

*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 God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal, you are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing; help us to praise you now for sending your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts wait, and to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and dominion, now and forever. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 135.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 12

EXALT THE LORD, HIS PRAISE PROCLAIM

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, our soul is like a house, small for you to enter, but we pray that you will enlarge it. It is in ruins, but we ask you to remake it. It contains much that you will not be pleased to see; this we know and do not hide. But to whom can we cry except you? Forgive us, O Lord. Cleanse us from our sins, our secret sins. What wretches we are! In your mercy, tell us what you are to us. "Say to my soul, 'I am your salvation'" (Ps 35.3)! Come, O God, and stir our hearts. Call us back to yourself. Kindle your fire in us and carry us away. Be our fire and our sweetness. Let us love you and hasten to your side; in Jesus' name. Amen.

—Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

Titus 3.4-7

Confession of Faith

What are the sacraments or ordinances?

The sacraments or ordinances given by God and instituted by Christ, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper, are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as a community of faith by his death and resurrection. By our use of them the Holy Spirit more fully declares and seals the promises of the gospel to us.¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 43

¹ "We are buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom 6.4).

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“The Mystery of Babylon”
Revelation 17.1-18
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. 642

BE THOU MY VISION

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

*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: "The Mystery of Babylon" (Revelation 17.1-18)

Prayer Concerns

A God to Trust and Lean Upon: Solomon wrote, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Pr 3.5-6). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Eric Carpenter, Sandy Cupolillo, Roberta Haer, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Clint & Elizabeth Miller, and Vickie Myers* might trust in the LORD and lean upon him alone this week for all they need.

The Persecuted Church: There are only a few thousand Christians out of nearly half a million people who live in *Maldives*, a small archipelagic country in South Asia, situated in the Arabian Sea. The Maldives' constitution requires all citizens to be Muslim. Conversion from Islam results in loss of citizenship and severe punishment under sharia law. Even foreign workers who are Christians are closely watched. Churches are outlawed, and openly carrying the Bible is illegal. The country is so tightly controlled by Islamic law that there is not even a Bible fully translated into the native language. Pray that God gives the Maldives' leaders a willingness to condone other religions and opens the hearts of some, in particular, to the gospel. Pray that God leads secret believers to find fellowship with one another and access to the Bible. And with drug abuse becoming the biggest social issue in Maldives, pray that many will turn to Christ and experience true freedom.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church: Pray for Rev. Jeff Glover, our church planter in Soldotna, AK as he shepherds the flock and trains men as officers who will help him do the same.

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.

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 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.