

# First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 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, in creation you fashion us in your image, in Christ you reveal to us your love, through the Holy Spirit you welcome us into the fellowship of believers; we bow in gratitude before you. We constantly distort your image, but still you restore it. We daily betray your love, but still you extend it. We often disrupt fellowship, but still you bless it. Come unto us at this time and in this place, O Lord, that your image in us might be revealed, your love for us returned, and our fellowship in Christ renewed. Amen.

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

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.  
—Isaiah 9.6-7

**Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.**

—Hebrews 1.1-3

## **\*Prayer of Adoration**

## **\*Song of Advent**

*Hymn No. 196*

*COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS*

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

#### **Confession of Sin**

Our Father in heaven, we thank you that you have led us into the light. We thank you for sending the Savior to call us from death to life. We confess that we were dead in sin before we heard his call, but when we heard him, like Lazarus, we arose. But, O Father, the grave clothes bind us still—old habits that we cannot throw off, old customs that are so much a part of our lives. We are helpless to live the new life that Christ calls us to live. Give us strength, O Father, to break the bonds; give us courage to live a new life in you; give us faith to believe that with your help we can be changed. All this we ask in the name of the Savior who taught us to come to you. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

Isaiah 12.1-2

#### **Confession of Faith**

What is the church?

**God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.**<sup>1</sup>

—The New City Catechism, No. 48

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<sup>1</sup> “But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth” (2 Thess 2.13).

## **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**

“Satan’s Doom and Our Deliverance From the Second Death”  
Revelation 20.1-15  
Rev. Ron Gonzales

## **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 Advent**

*Hymn No. 211*

*GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN*

**-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-**

**\*Benediction**

1 Corinthians 13.14

\*Please stand if able.

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**Gatherings**

*Home Fellowship Group* is temporarily on hold. We hope to resume it just as soon as possible.

*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:**

**“Satan’s Doom and Our Deliverance From the Second Death” (Revelation 20.1-15)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Boise Presbyterian Church:* Pray for Rev. Brian Frey, our church planter in downtown Boise, as he labors to establish this young congregation.

*Jay & Bet Denton (Boise):* Pray for Jay and the RUF staff as they engage students on the Boise State campus, that God leads them to many who are hungry to respond to the gospel and eager to grow in grace.

*Pandemic:* As the number of coronavirus cases surge across the nation, pray that the healthcare workers caring for those infected are kept safe and strong. Pray that those who are suffering from the virus make full recoveries. And pray that the vaccines, which show such promising results, are soon available.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 4.3 million Christians out of 54.3 million people in *Myanmar*, formerly known as Burma. Extremists maintain that to be Burmese is to be Buddhist, so there is intense pressure on all religious minorities, including Christians. Rebel groups have forcibly closed many churches. The army maintains tight control over the government, restricting and minimizing the rights of believers. Pray for persecuted Christian minorities, that they would lovingly minister to persecuted Rohingya Muslims, especially those choosing to return from exile in Bangladesh. Pray that many hearts would be opened to the truth of the gospel. And pray for those who convert from Islam and Buddhism, that they would feel connected to the church, as they live under intense pressure from their families and communities.

*Unfailing Love and Covenant of Peace:* Isaiah writes, “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you (Is 54.10). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Eric Carpenter, Sandy Cupolillo, Roberta Haer, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Elizabeth Miller, and Vickie Myers* might quietly rest in God’s love and peace this week.

## **Announcements**

*Christmas Care Packs:* For more information regarding the VOM’s Christmas Care Packs, go to [www.persecution.com/christmascare/?\\_source\\_code=EM20K7A](http://www.persecution.com/christmascare/?_source_code=EM20K7A). Donations are due next Sunday.

*Visitors:* Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and are eager to get acquainted.

### **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.