

# Third Sunday in Advent

December 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**

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**

For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.  
He was despised and rejected by men;  
A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.  
Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.  
But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

—Hebrews 2.14-17

### **\*Prayer of Adoration**

### **\*Song of Advent**

*Hymn No. 194*

*O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things—our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Galatians 4.4-5

## Confession of Faith

What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?

**Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.** <sup>1</sup>

—The New City Catechism, No. 50

## 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

*"Maranatha!—Come, Lord Jesus!"*  
Revelation 22.6-21  
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

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<sup>1</sup> "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep" (1 Thess 4.13-14).

## **-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. 214*

*ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH*

**-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-**

**\*Benediction**

2 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: "*Maranatha!*—Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22.6-21)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Joy in the Testing:* James writes, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness" (Jas 1.2-3). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Eric Carpenter, Sandy Cupolillo, Roberta Haer, Judie Jud, Del Klicker, Tom Manning, Gunnar McBean, Elizabeth Miller, and Vickie Myers* might have eyes to see the growth in character that God is producing in their lives through the trials they are enduring.

*Tom & Melissa Manning* are in Boise this month, before returning to Turkey after the New Year. Pray that their time with loved ones, especially their children, is a great blessing.

*Pandemic:* Continue to pray for the safety of our healthcare workers, for the healing of those suffering from the virus, and that the vaccines will soon be available.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 8.7 million Christians out of 97 million people in *Vietnam*, which is largely a Buddhist country. Christians are targeted by both the government and, in rural areas, tribal leaders. The government has some tolerance for Catholics, but if anyone is deemed politically active, they can be imprisoned. In places where religion and ethnic identity are closely tied, Christian converts are often victims of pressure and violence from their families and communities. Pray for the pastors who travel into rural areas to minister to believers who have formed small churches. Pray for those who convert to the Christian faith and are therefore at risk. And pray for those deemed a threat by the government and are therefore targeted.

## **Announcements**

*Christmas Caroling & Wagon Ride:* The first trip begins at 4:00 PM today, and hot beverages will be available around the fire pit. Please bring your own chairs and blankets.

*Christmas Eve Service:* We will gather on Christmas Eve! Please come and bring your family and friends to a Service of Lessons and (a few) Carols, at 6:00 PM.

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

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

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

In the Greek language of the early Christian era abbreviations were typically the first and last letters of words, often with a superscription to indicate the missing letters. IC is a standard abbreviation of IHCOYC, the Greek "Jesus," XC the abbreviation of XPICTOC, "Christ"; and NIKA means "He conquers." The symbol then reads, "Jesus Christ Conquers by the Cross" or "Jesus Christ, Victor."