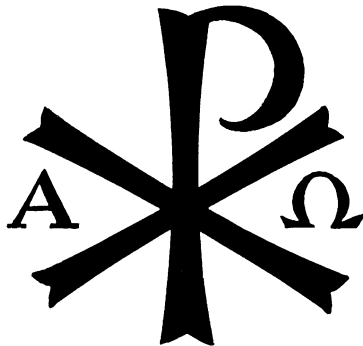


**LORD'S DAY**  
December 27, 2020



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**

Holy and loving God, as we worship you today, we long for your Spirit to both comfort and challenge us, to help us become more holy and more loving. In a world that does not understand repentance, we pray for new understanding, humility, patience, and discipline that will help us die to sin and live for Jesus. Amen.

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

Psalm 99.1-5, 9

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

### **\*Song of Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 100*

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

O Lord, what evil have we not done? Or if there is evil that we have not done, what evil is there that we have not spoken? Or if there is any evil that we have not spoken, what evil is there that we have not thought to do? But you, O Lord, are good. You are merciful. You saw how deep we were sunk in death, and it was your power that drained dry the well of corruption in the depths of our hearts. All that you have asked of us was to deny our own wills and accept yours. Forgive us for every failure to do so, and help us to follow you in every way and always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

– Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

### Confession of Faith

What hope does everlasting life hold for us?

**It reminds us that this present fallen world is not all there is; soon we will live with and enjoy God forever in the new city, in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be fully and forever freed from all sin and will inhabit renewed, resurrection bodies in a renewed, restored creation.<sup>1</sup>**

—The New City Catechism, No. 52

### 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven, and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Rev 21.1-4).

**-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-**

**Sermon**

*“The Heart of Generosity”*

2 Corinthians 8.1-15

Rev. Pete Williamson

**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. 230*

*THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOR*

**-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: "The Heart of Generosity" (2 Corinthians 8.1-15)**

## **Prayer Concern**

*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.

*Pandemic*: Continue to pray for the healing of those suffering from the virus and that the vaccine proves effective in protecting our healthcare workers and the most vulnerable.

*The Persecuted Church*: There are 97 million Christians out of 1.4 billion people in *China*, a country that seeks to make every religious belief, including Christianity, accord with communism. This results in steady pressure, governmental surveillance, control, and restrictions on believers. If churches or pastors are deemed too outspoken, they are monitored and sometimes imprisoned. And the decision to follow Christ comes at a particularly high cost for those who come from Islamic or Buddhist backgrounds. Pray for the church in China, as it adjusts to constantly tightening restrictions on religious freedom. Pray for those who have converted from Islam or Buddhism, that they would find strength and fellowship. And pray that Christ will reveal himself to government officials who seek to control the church.

*The Supplier of Every Need*: Paul writes, “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Ph 4.19). 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* will be encouraged by the promise that God has and will meet all of their needs in the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Announcements**

*Daily Bible Reading*: Reading through the Bible regularly is vital to our spiritual growth. Many of us will be doing so again in 2021, using Robert Murray M’Cheyne’s daily schedule, which is available on the literature table. Please consider joining us.

*Financial Update*: The November 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.

*Updated Directories*: The new church directories are available on the table just inside the front door. Please help yourself.

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