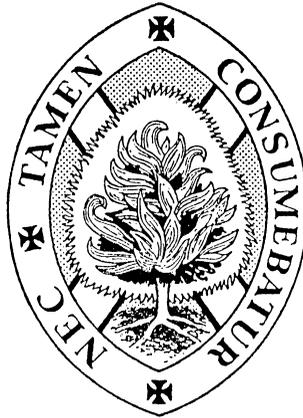


Second Sunday in Advent

December 6, 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

Heavenly Father, Giver and Sustainer of all life: Help us, as we draw near, to love and adore and worship you with all that we are and all that we have to offer, for you alone are worthy. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming says the LORD of hosts.

— Malachi 3.1

**In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken
of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,**

**"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.'"**

—Matthew 3.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Advent**

Hymn No. 241

THOU DOST REIGN ON HIGH

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your great Name, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who possess more, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, and our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Cleanse us and change our very way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

Mark 10.45

***Confession of Faith**

Where is Christ now?

Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling his kingdom and interceding for us, until he returns to judge and renew the whole world.¹

—The New City Catechism, No. 49

Prayer for the Church and the World

¹ “He raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come” (Eph 1.20-21).

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“Heaven at Last!”
Revelation 21.1-22.5
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. 203

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

*Please stand if able.

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: "Heaven at Last!" (Revelation 21.1-22.5)

Prayer Concerns

Attentive to Our Cry: David writes, “When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the broken hearted and saves the crushed in spirit” (Ps 34.17-18). 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* know the nearness of God this week, to lift their spirits and to deliver them from every evil.

Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan): Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team as they reach out with the love of Christ to the Yakama people during the Christmas season. May their words and deeds bring hope and healing to many on the reservation.

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 227,000 Christians out of 7 million people in *Laos*, a Southeast Asian country that is chiefly Buddhist but is led by a communion regime that tightly controls every aspect of religious life. Christian gatherings are monitored, and even registered churches are often forced to meet in homes. Christians who have converted from Buddhism and animism are often targeted for persecution, since they are viewed as having rejected their families and communities. Pray for their safety. Pray that they are able to witness to their Buddhist neighbors and family members without suffering oppression for their faith. And pray that they have access to Bibles and churches so that they might continue to grow in their faith.

Announcements

Christmas Care Packs: Donations are due today. Please be sure to note on the memo line of your check what the gift is for. Thank you!

Christmas Caroling & Wagon Ride: Next Sunday, beginning at 4:00 PM, we will carol from a horse drawn covered wagon. Beverages will be available around a fire pit. Up to three trips available; sign up in foyer for your preferred time. Please bring your own blankets and chairs.

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

Explanation of the Cover Symbol

Since the time of the Reformation, the burning bush has been a symbol of the Church. The Latin words are taken from Exodus 3.2 and read “...and yet it was not consumed.” In one of his letters, Samuel Rutherford reminded his correspondent, “The bush has been burning these five thousand years, and no man yet saw the ashes of that fire.”