

LORD'S DAY
January 3, 2021



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

Almighty God, whose glory is above the heavens, praise waits for you in Zion! Out of your great mercy you have gathered us into your church. Receive the adoration of our hearts this day, and grant that we may so honor you, both in spirit and in outward form, that your name may be glorified through the worship of our lips and our hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 148.1-4, 11-13

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 112

PRAISE YE, PRAISE YE THE LORD

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, no day of our lives has passed that has not proved us guilty in your sight. Prayers have been uttered from prayerless hearts. Praise has often been praiseless sound. Our best services are filthy rags. All things in us call for our rejection, yet all things in Christ plead our acceptance. Grant us to hear your voice assuring us that by your stripes we are healed; that you were bruised for our iniquities, that you became sin for us that we might become righteous in you. Grant that by resting in your righteousness we may hereafter walk in newness of life and run hard after your commandments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 2.24-25

Confession of Faith

What is the chief end of man?

Man's chief end is to glorify God,¹ and to enjoy him forever.²

— The Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 1

¹ "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor 10.31).

² "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works" (Ps 73.25-28).

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“The Paths We Choose”

Jeremiah 5.30-6.16

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 Faith in God**

Hymn No. 108

WHATE'ER MY GOD ORDAINS IS RIGHT

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

*Please stand if able.

Gatherings

Home Fellowship Group, led by Pastor Ron, is resuming January 19. It will meet then and on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Chad and Heidi Leinweber's, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, and will study 1 Kings. 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 and fourth Tuesdays of each month, at 5:15 PM in the sanctuary, to pray for one another, for the kingdom, and the world. Please join us.

Sermon Notes: "The Paths We Choose" (Jeremiah 5.30-6.16)

Prayer Concerns

God our Help: We read this promise in Isaiah: "For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you'" (Is 41.13). 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 be filled with courage as they rest in their Helper this week.

Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan): Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team as they care for the Yakama people. May their words and deeds convey the love of Christ and the hope of the gospel to many. And may the Lord grant faith to lay hold of it.

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 some 10,000 Christians out of 4.6 million people in *Mauritania*, a Northwest African country officially known as the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. For Christians, public worship carries a constant threat. Churches must be careful not to be accused of proselytizing Muslims. Baptisms must be carried out in secret, and there is a growing fear because radical Islam is on the rise. Pray for Christian converts from Islam. They face intense pressure from the government, from their families, and from their communities. Pray for the problem of slavery in Mauritania, and for its victims. This heinous reality often stems from religious extremism. Pray for safety and courage for those who fear the rise of more Islamic extremists. And pray for the hearts of radicals to turn to Christ.

Announcements

Confessing Our Faith: In 2021-2022 we will be using *The Westminster Shorter Catechism* as the primary means of confessing our faith together each Lord's Day. Copies of the *Shorter Catechism*, with Scripture proofs, are available on the literature table. Please feel free to take one.

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.

A Men's Leadership Study: All men are invited to an informational gathering this Wednesday, from 6:00 to 7:00 AM, in the Coffee Hour room, to learn more about a weekly study that is about to begin that will help you grow as a Christian leader.

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