

**The First Sunday in Lent**  
February 21, 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**

Father, most kind and generous: We come to you as your children, because we need you and want to be with you; we come to you as our Lord and God, because we are in awe of you and worship you; we come to you in the name of Jesus, because you have promised to be with us when we gather in his name. All glory be to you, O Father, and to the Eternal Son, and to the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

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

Psalm 98.1-6

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

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

*Hymn No. 2*

*O WORSHIP THE KING*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

Merciful God, we humble ourselves in your presence, confessing our unworthiness and sinfulness in your sight. We have broken your holy law. We have not sought first your kingdom and righteousness. We have been anxious and troubled about many things, and have often neglected the things that belong to our peace. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, or done to others as we would have them do to us. Most gracious Father, who has given your Son, Jesus Christ, to save your people from their sins; forgive us, we pray; cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and renew a right spirit within us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Psalm 103.8, 10-12

### **Confession of Faith**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

—The Apostles' Creed<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated as a baptismal confession, probably in the second century, and developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century.

## **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**

“What Prayer Ought to Be”

1 Kings 8.1-66

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. We will 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 Dedication**

*Hymn No. 528*

*MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

**\*Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

\*Please stand if able.

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### **Gatherings**

*Home Fellowship Group*, led by Pastor Ron, meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Chad and Heidi Leinweber's, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. They are studying 1 Kings and all are welcome.

*The Men's Group* meets Fridays, from 6:00 to 7:00 AM, in the Coffee Hour room. They are going through a series, led by Kirk Alden, entitled "Leading by the Book," in which fifty-two leadership principles related to personal development, relationships, and life skills are studied from a biblical perspective. All men and older sons are invited!

*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.

*The Women's Ministry Study*, led by Cherry Gonzales, is studying the Psalms of Ascent (120-134), on Tuesdays at 7:00 AM, in the Coffee Hour room. (Morning coffee provided!) All women are invited.

**Sermon Notes: "What Prayer Ought to Be" (1 Kings 8.1-66)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Established and Guarded by the Lord:* Paul assured the Thessalonian Christians, “The Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one” (2 Thess 3.3). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Eric Carpenter, Sandy Cupolillo, Roberta Haer, Judie Jud, Del Klicker, Tom Manning, Elizabeth Miller, and Vickie Myers* might know God’s confirming and shielding care this week as they look to him.

*Hilltop Presbyterian Church:* Rev. Jon Neville began planting a church in Ferndale, WA this past fall. Pray for God’s blessing as he gives himself to this new work. May the Lord use it to draw many to himself, establishing them in the gospel of God’s free grace.

*Tom & Melissa Manning* are back in Turkey, reconnecting with their team and reaching out to those who contacted them through the Saturation Outreach of this past fall. Pray that the interest many have expressed is genuine and that they respond in faith when they learn more. Pray that Tom and Melissa’s residence visa will be renewed; they are just beginning the renewal process. And pray that Tom’s continued cancer recovery is borne out by the medical tests he will soon have.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 71,000 Christians out of 9.2 million people in *Tajikistan*, a Muslim country where local authorities detain believers, raid churches, and confiscate religious materials. Christian converts are persecuted by the government, their families, and their communities. As a result, they often tell no one of their decision to follow Christ and choose instead to live the life of a secret believer. Pray for those who live under constant pressure to renounce their faith and return to Islam. Ask God to strengthen them. Pray for church leaders who face daily threats of raids and arrests. Ask God to give them courage, wisdom, and discernment as they serve the church. And pray that government pressure would subside so that Christians would be able to practice their faith openly in peace.

## **Announcements**

*Birthdays & Anniversaries this Week:*

*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.”