

# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America*

Dr. Ron Gonzales, Minister

66 S Palouse St | Walla Walla, WA 99362

(509) 522-1020 Email: [office@covenantwallawalla.org](mailto:office@covenantwallawalla.org)

*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**

Psalm 93.1-2

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**\*Song of Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 75*

*O FATHER, YOU ARE SOVEREIGN*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

Heavenly Father, we come to you as your sons and your servants, grateful for the redemption that is ours in Jesus Christ, yet aware of our continuing need of your grace. We confess that we have sinned against you; we have broken your commandments; we have fallen short of your glory. We have not loved you with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We were born in sin and have continued to sin. We acknowledge our guilt and recognize that we rightly fall under your curse and judgment. Blot out our transgressions, wash away our iniquities, forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Have mercy on us, O Lord; in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Micah 7.18-19

### **Confession of Faith**

What is the work of creation?

**The work of creation is God's making all things from nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.<sup>1</sup>**

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 9

### **Prayer for the Church and the World**

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 1 throughout; "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible" (Heb 11.3).

**-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-**

**Sermon**

“The Dismantling of Israel’s Glorious Kingdom”

1 Kings 12.1-24

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 Commitment**

*Hymn No. 345*

*GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE SPOKEN*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

**\*Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

\*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: "The Dismantling of Israel's Glorious Kingdom" (1 Kings 12.1-24)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church:* Rev. Craig Harris is planting a church in Yakima. Pray for God's blessings as he gives himself to this new work, that the Lord leads him to many who are hungry to hear and respond to the gospel.

*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 eager to respond to the gospel and grow in Christian discipleship.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are only 23,000 Christians out of 11.7 million people in *Tunisia*, an Islamic country in north Africa where, because of their faith, many Christians suffer job loss, family abandonment, and abuse. As a result, most converts choose to hide their faith from others. Pray that persecuted believers will know God's presence in their daily lives as they navigate Islamic society. Pray for Christian converts to grow spiritually. Ask God to raise up leaders who will teach the Bible and plant underground churches. And pray for persecuted Christian youth, especially those who face pressure from non-believing family members when they want to marry.

*Refuge and Joy:* David prays, "Let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you" (Ps 5.11). 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 take refuge in the Lord this week and discover in him songs of joy.

## **Announcements**

*Financial Update:* The February 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.

*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**

The Anchor is an ancient Christian symbol for hope. It is derived from Hebrews 6.19: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul..." When combined with a cross it makes plain that Christian hope is in Christ and His redemption. The symbol was frequently used in this sense in the catacombs of ancient Rome.