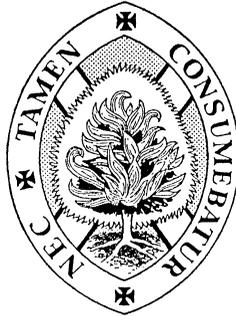


# The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 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**

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 135.1-3

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**\*Song of Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 12*

*EXALT THE LORD, HIS PRAISE PROCLAIM*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed; not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires that we are unable to understand, but which are all known to you. We, therefore, flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we can delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Colossians 1.21-22

### **Confession of Faith**

How did God create man?

**God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.<sup>1</sup>**

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 10

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<sup>1</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Gen 1.26-28). "...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator" (Col 3.10). "...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph 4.24).

## **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**

“The Subversion of Faith”

1 Kings 12.25-13.10

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. 562*

*ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER*

## -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: "The Subversion of Faith" (1 Kings 12.25-13.10)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan):* Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team as they minister to the Yakama people, that God uses them to convey the love of the Savior to many, and that through their witness a great number come to know and grow in Christ.

*Hilltop Presbyterian Church:* Rev. Jon Neville is planting a church in Ferndale. Pray for God's blessing 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.

*Predestined to Be Conformed:* Paul reminded the Romans, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first born among many brothers" (Rom 8.28-29). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Eric Carpenter, Sandy Cupolillo, Roberta Haer, Judie Jud, Del Klicker, Tom Manning, Elizabeth Miller, Vickie Myers, and Samantha Schroeder* might find great comfort in knowing that God uses everything to accomplish his good purposes in their lives.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 4.8 million Christians out of 18.5 million people in *Kazakhstan*. Formerly part of the Soviet Union, the government of Kazakhstan continues to work to maintain its control over society. It is illegal for non-registered churches to gather, forcing them to meet in secret and leading to police raids during worship services. Religious literature must be approved by the government, and converts from Islam bear the brunt of the persecution, including house arrest for long periods, physical violence, and excommunication from their communities. Pray for the safety of both Kazakh believers and church leaders. Pray for converts under house arrest. And pray for the government authorities seeking to suppress or eradicate Christianity, that God might open their eyes to the truth and grant them faith.

## **Announcements**

*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**

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."