

# The Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 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**

Almighty God, who through the Lord Jesus Christ has overcome death, and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Draw our hearts to you this day, guide our minds, and control our wills, that we may be wholly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you desire, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people. Amen.

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

Psalm 103.1-5, 15-22

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

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

*Hymn No. 53*

*PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

Almighty God, to know you is the fulfillment of our deepest longings and the satisfaction of our most fervent desires. Yet foolishly we have sought our pleasures elsewhere. We have put the seeking of idols, which are bound to leave us empty, above seeking you. We have failed to love you with our whole heart, soul, and mind. We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us our sins for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. And grant that we might from this time forth serve you in newness of life. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

**Confession of Faith**

How does God execute his decrees?

**God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence.**

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 8

**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**

“Where Divided Hearts Lead”

1 Kings 11.1-43

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. 642*

*BE THOU MY VISION*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

### **\*Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

\*Please stand if able.

---

### **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: "Where Divided Hearts Lead" (1 Kings 11.1-43)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*The Christian Aid Center* cares for many in our community who are hurting and in need. Pray that God continues to convey his love and grace to those they serve.

*The Gift of Peace:* Jesus told his disciples, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (Jn 14.27). 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 and be kept in Christ’s peace as they look to him this week.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 180,000 Christians out of 10 million people in *Jordan*. Though they experience a relatively high degree of religious freedom, discrimination in employment and restrictions against public preaching still exist. Consequently, open testimonies of faith by Christian converts can lead to physical violence, arrest, and even death. Radical Islamic movements are also a source of persecution for Christians. Pray for believers who are discriminated against in their jobs, that they would follow Jesus’ example as they respond to their persecutors. Pray for protection against attacks by radical Islamic groups. And pray for wisdom and courage for Christians to be true disciples in this Muslim-dominated culture.

*Redeemer Presbyterian Church:* Pray for Rev. Jeff Glover, our church planter in Soldotna, AK as he shepherds the flock and trains men as officers who will help him do the same.

## **Announcements**

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

### **Explanation of the Cover Symbol**

The Chi Rho symbol is one of the most ancient Christian symbols. XP, the first two letters of the Greek “Christ,” is an abbreviation of the name of the Lord. This symbol is often, as here, accompanied with other symbols, in this case “Alpha” and “Omega,” the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The symbol originates from Revelation 22.13; “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End” (cf. Revelation 1.8; 21.6). This particular symbol dates from the first few centuries of the Christian era and is often found on tombs.