

# LORD'S DAY

May 2, 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**

Heavenly Father, Giver and Sustainer of all life: Help us, as we draw near, to love and adore and worship you with all that we are and all that we have to offer, for you alone are worthy. Amen.

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

Psalm 33.1-9

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

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

*Hymn No. 24*

*VAST THE IMMENSITY, MIRROR OF MAJESTY*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

O Lord, we long to enter your presence and worship you face to face, awed by your majesty, greatness and glory, encouraged by your steadfast love. Yet there is often a coldness in our hearts, a hardness and an unwillingness to admit our sin and need of you. Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. Come near and strengthen us until Christ reigns supreme within; in every thought, word, and deed. Give us a faith that purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to you, and always clings to the cross; in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Psalm 103.8-14

## **\*Song of Praise to Christ**

*Hymn No. 159*

*O SAVIOR, PRECIOUS SAVIOR*

### **Confession of Faith**

What is sin?

**Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God.<sup>1</sup>**

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 14

### **Reception of New Members**

Richard and Danielle Parker

#### Membership Vows

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving his displeasure, and without hope except in his sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered in the gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to strive for its purity and peace?

#### Prayer

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<sup>1</sup> “Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness” (1 Jn 3.4).

## Prayer for the Church and the World

### -ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

#### Sermon

“Man, God, and the March of History”  
1 Kings 15.25-16.34  
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 Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 6*

*O COME, MY SOUL, BLESS THOU THE LORD*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

### \*Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

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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: "Man, God, and the March of History" (1 Kings 15.25-16.34)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Glory to Be Revealed:* Paul wrote to the Romans, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Rom 8.18). What an amazing thought! In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Elizabeth Miller, Vickie Myers, and Samantha Schroeder* fix their eyes on the promised glory yet to be revealed, and in it find their hope.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 47 million Christians out of 49 million people living in *Colombia*, yet surprisingly church leaders are being harassed, extorted and even murdered by guerrillas and other criminal elements. This violence is often the result of Christians working for the defense of human rights or supporting a peace agreement that would restrict illegal activities of militant groups. Christian missionaries and new converts also face imprisonment, physical abuse and the confiscation of property. Pray that Christians remain strong in their faith despite the fears of guerrilla activity. Pray for those who are promoting human rights and peace who are often targeted. And pray that pastors and their families have the support and protection they need in order to be able to spread the gospel.

*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.

*Samantha Schroeder* is giving birth tomorrow. Pray for a safe arrival and that all goes well.

*Alister & Sarah Torrens* (Ukraine) report that the situation in Kiev is quite difficult. Most people remain in lockdown, due to COVID, including public transportation. The vaccines available are not trusted. They were acquired from India and those who have taken them have had severe reactions. Pray for the Torrens’ safety as they continue to reach out to others, and, of course, for their ongoing ministry at the seminary and the church plant.

## **Announcements**

*Visitors:* Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and look forward to meeting you.

### **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 the fire.”