

LORD'S DAY

August 22, 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, from whom every good prayer comes, who pours out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication: Deliver us, as we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 98.1-4

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 16

COME, LET US SING UNTO THE LORD

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O God, our great shepherd, you tenderly gather us as lambs, carrying us with your all-embracing love. Yet, like sheep, we wander from you: following our own ways, ignoring your voice, distrusting your provisions. Forgive our stubborn rebellion, our hardened hearts, our lack of trust. Refresh us once again by your quiet waters of mercy and restore our souls by your redeeming love. Guide our paths, that we might follow you more closely. This we ask, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 243

PRAISE THE SAVIOR NOW AND EVER

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' Creed¹

Prayer for the Church and the World

¹ 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.

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“The Gateway to Our Homeland”

2 Kings 2.1-14

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 706

JESUS LIVES, AND SO SHALL I

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

We celebrate the Lord's Supper by coming forward (generally from the back of the sanctuary to the front, though you may commune at any time) and partaking of the bread and the cup. Wine is served in the inner rings of each tray; grape juice in the outer ring. We warmly invite to the Table all baptized Christians, who are living under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking of 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 and commend to you 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 Thanksgiving**

Hymn No. 520

JESUS, THY BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

*Benediction

2 Corinthians 13.14

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 2 Kings and all are welcome.

The Men's Group is on break for the next few weeks. It will resume in mid-September.

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 Covenant Women's Study, led by Jenni Early, is studying the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7), on Tuesdays, from 7:00 to 8:30 AM, in the Coffee Hour room. All women are welcome, and copies of the passage and questions for next week are available on the literature table.

Sermon Notes: "The Gateway to Our Homeland" (2 Kings 2.1-14)

Prayer Concerns

Afghanistan: Pray for the safety of our troops and for the safe withdrawal of the Americans and for others seeking to flee Afghanistan. And pray for those who remain and are most vulnerable to the Taliban.

Boise Presbyterian Church: Pray for Rev. Brian Frey, our church planter in Boise, that God strengthens and directs him as he labors to establish this young congregation.

Our Helper & Keeper: The psalmist writes, "From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper" (Ps 121.1-5). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Tom Manning,* and *Vickie Myers* rest in the LORD, their helper and keeper.

The Persecuted Church: There are nearly 2 million Christians out of 42.5 million people in *Sudan*, an Islamic nation in northeast Africa. The church is currently at great risk. The secession of South Sudan in 2011 has left Christians vulnerable as Islamic conservatives push for a Shariah state. The government has recently arrested many Christian leaders and several churches have been demolished. Extremists have attacked Christians, especially in the Nuba Mountain region, where thousands have been killed or displaced. Pray that Christians would have the freedom to worship without fear of violence, that they would be sustained in their faith despite the difficulty, and that they would have access to Bibles and to Christian discipleship.

Alister & Sarah Torrens (Ukraine): Pray for the Torrenses as they give themselves to planting a new church in Kiev, for Alister's teaching responsibilities at the seminary, and that God blesses their labors as they reach out to unbelievers around them.

Announcements

The Fall Women's Bible Study, lead by Chris McBean, begins September 8. It will meet on Wednesdays, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, and will study 1 John, Jude, and Philippians.

Visitors: Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and would love to have you join us, following the service, for some refreshments and fellowship.

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 NIKΑ means "He conquers." The symbol then reads, "Jesus Christ Conquers by the Cross" or "Jesus Christ, Victor."