

**LORD'S DAY**  
**September 12, 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**

O God, who makes Thyself known in the stillness: Make me to know Thy presence in this sacred place; make me to be of the company of brave saints who have worshiped here in spirit and in truth. Through the voices of men and the instruments of praise lift my heart to Thee and so purify my life that, going forth, I may go in Thy strength and love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

Psalm 113.1-9

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

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

*Hymn No. 3*

*GIVE TO OUR GOD IMMORTAL PRAISE*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

O Lord God, the heavens declare your glory, the earth your riches. We thank you for the treasures given us in Jesus; for the unclouded revelation of him in your Word, where we behold his character, grace and glory, as well as his sufferings, death and resurrection. We come to you in his all-prevailing name, with nothing of our own to plead: no works, no worthiness, no promises. We are often straying, often knowingly opposing your authority, often abusing your goodness. Impress us deeply with a sense of your presence; that you are about our paths, our ways, our lying down, and our end. Subdue in us the love of sin and let us know the need of renewal as well as forgiveness; that we may wholeheartedly serve and enjoy you forever. This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

**\*Song of Praise to Christ**

*Hymn No. 302*

*COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING*

**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' Creed<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## **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 Helplessness of Man and the Power of God”

2 King 4.1-44

Rev. Ron Gonzales

#### **\*Song of Response**

*Hymn No. 510*

*THOU HIDDEN SOURCE OF CALM REPOSE*

### **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 but 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. 691*

*IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

### \*Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

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### Gatherings

*A Children's Catechism Class*, taught by Pastor Ron and Elder Jacob Schroeder, meets every other Wednesday afternoon, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, at the church. This fall the class is studying Qs 38-52 of the New City Catechism. For more information, talk to Pastor Ron.

*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 Chris McBean, is studying 1 John on Wednesdays, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, in the Coffee Hour room. All women are invited.

**Sermon Notes: "The Helplessness of Man and the Power of God" (2 Kings 4.1-44)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Afghanistan:* Pray for the Americans and our Afghan partners trying to leave Afghanistan, that they are kept safe and are soon able to depart.

*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, and that the Lord leads him to many who are hungry to hear and respond to the gospel.

*Rev. Tom & Melissa Manning* arrived in Turkey this week and will be there till September 21, wrapping things up. It is a bittersweet time of saying goodbye to ministry partners and those they have cared for. Pray for their transition, for Tom's continued health, and for the ministry opportunities that await them in Arizona. (They plan to be with us on Sunday, October 24.)

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 66 million Christians out of 1.3 billion people living in *India*, where the principal religion is Hinduism. Since the ruling party took control in 2014, attacks against Christians by Hindu radicals have increased with little to no consequences. In their view, to be Indian is to be Hindu, so any other faith is viewed as non-Indian. Converts from Hindu backgrounds are particularly mistreated. Pray for strength for them and for all Christian converts who are forcefully pressured to return to their former religion. Pray for God's power and protection over those preaching the gospel in places with anti-conversion laws. And pray that India's leaders would change the laws to allow for more religious freedom.

*Strength & Defense:* The psalmist prayed, "The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation" (Ps 118.14). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Karen Carpenter, Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Tom Manning, and Rick & Vickie Myers* know the Lord as their defender this week.

## **Announcements**

*Ladies of Covenant:* Another special "day away" is being planned for you at the church on September 25! We will begin at 9:00 AM, enjoy fellowship, some teaching from the lives of Ruth and David offered by Cherry Gonzales, a wonderful lunch and the gift of friendship among us, wrapping up at 3:00 PM. Please RSVP to Jenni Early.

### **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.