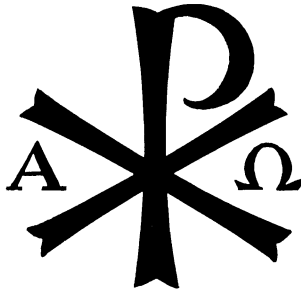


LORD'S DAY
September 5, 2021



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

*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

Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal, you are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing; help us to praise you now for sending your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts wait, and to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and dominion, now and forever. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 34.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 6

O COME, MY SOUL, BLESS THOU THE LORD

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, all that we are is laid bare before you. What could be hidden within us, even if we were unwilling to confess it? We would be hiding you from ourselves, not ourselves from you. And we make our confession not in words alone, but with the voice of our soul and in our thoughts which cry aloud to you. When we are evil, making confession to you is simply to be displeased with ourselves. When we are good, it is to make no claim on our own behalf, for without you we can do nothing. And so we confess our many sins of thought, word, and deed. We love you and so we are ashamed of ourselves and, once again, choose you and your will. Forgive us and help us to seek no pleasure for ourselves except that which is also pleasure for you; in Jesus' name. Amen.

—Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

Silently add your own confession of sin.

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 172

LET US LOVE AND SING AND WONDER

Confession of Faith

What is Christ's exaltation?

Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day,¹ in ascending into heaven,² in sitting at the right hand of God the Father,³ and in coming to judge the world at the last day.⁴

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 28

Prayer for the Church and the World

¹ "...that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (1 Cor 15.4).

² "So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God" (Mark 16.19).

³ "...that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places" (Eph 1.20).

⁴ "...and said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven'" (Acts 1.11). "...because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17.31).

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“The Kindness of the LORD...”

2 King 3.1-27

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 493

WE HAVE NOT KNOWN THEE AS WE OUGHT

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. 688

HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD!

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

***Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

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 Umapipe 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 Kindness of the LORD..." (2 Kings 3.1-27)

Prayer Concerns

Afghanistan: Praise God for the safe return of our troops and the more than 100,000 Afghans able to leave the country. Pray for the Americans and our Afghan partners who remain and are still trying to get out, that the U.S. government is successful in securing their release.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church: Rev. Craig Harris is planting a church in Yakima. Pray for God's blessings as he gives himself to this work, and that the Lord leads him to many who are hungry to hear and respond to the gospel.

Rev. 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 Christ to many, and that through their witness a great number on the reservation come to know and grow in the Savior.

Forever on His Mind: David prayed, "God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish" (Ps 9.18). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Tom Manning,* and *Rick & Vickie Myers* are kept in the confident assurance that the Lord has not forgotten them and, indeed, is for them.

The Persecuted Church: There are 800,000 Christians out of 82 million people in *Iran*. Governed by Islamic law, it is illegal to hold church services, produce Christian literature, or share one's faith. Converts face severe persecution, and Christians who attend underground churches face the constant threat of arrest. Pray for those imprisoned, that God encourages them despite their isolation. Pray for those meeting in secret, that they are protected as they bear witness to others. And pray that God moves *Iran's* leaders to grant religious freedom to its people.

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 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, 17; 21.6). This particular symbol dates from the first few centuries of the Christian era and is often found on tombs.