

**LORD'S DAY**  
**October 17, 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**

Father, your mercies have brought us to the dawn of another Lord's Day. Vain will be its gift unless we know you, love you, and admire you more fully. Allow us to do so, O Lord, knowing that the ability to worship is not in us, but in your enabling love. Lead us and tend us by the hand of the Good Shepherd himself. Amen.

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 105.1-5, 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.*

**\*Song of Praise to Christ**

*Hymn No. 164*

*O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING*

**Confession of Faith**

What benefits are there in this life for those who are effectually called?

**Those who are effectually called partake in justification,<sup>1</sup> adoption,<sup>2</sup> sanctification, and the other benefits that, in this life, do either accompany them or flow from them.<sup>3</sup>**

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 32

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<sup>1</sup> “And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified” (Rom 8.30).

<sup>2</sup> “He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will” (Eph 1.5).

<sup>3</sup> “For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ...And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Cor 1.26, 30).

**Prayer for the Church and the World.**

**-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-**

**Sermon**

“The Mystery of Divine Providence”

2 Kings 8.1-15

Rev. Ron Gonzales

**\*Song of Response**

*Hymn No. 109*

LORD, MY WEAK THOUGHT IN VAIN WOULD CLIMB

**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. 94*

*HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

### **Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

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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* 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 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 Mystery of Divine Providence" (2 Kings 8.1-15)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

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

*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.

*In Full Confidence:* The writer of Hebrews exhorts us, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful" (Heb 10.23). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupilillo, Mike Givens, Tom Manning, and Rick & Vickie Myers* this week rest secure in God's love and faithfulness.

*Rev. Tom & Melissa Manning* returned from Istanbul two weeks ago and are settling into their home in Arizona as they await the arrival of their personal belongings. Tom continues to receive care at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale and, for now, he and Melissa will be reaching out to Muslims in the Phoenix area and helping those called to the Middle East prepare for the mission field. We will learn more next Sunday when they are with us, but please keep them in your prayers.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are only 200,000 Christians out of 40 million people in *Iraq*. Many of them are still recovering from the brutal reign of ISIS. For others, the threat has not yet diminished, especially in the North. Iraq remains very tribal, which means there is significant pressure for believers from Muslim backgrounds, since conversion is seen as a rejection of heritage and family. Pray for those who are recovering from such trauma, that they might be strengthened and grow in grace. And pray for pastors who are desperately needed to care for and feed the saints in this war-torn place.

## **Announcements**

*Session Meeting:* The elders area meeting this Thursday, at 5:30 PM, to pray for and conduct the business of the church. Pray for them as they do, and please let them know how they can pray for you.

*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**

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.