

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 31, 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

Dear God, silence all voices within our minds but your own. Help us to seek and be able to follow your will. May our prayers be joined with those of our brothers and sisters in the faith, that together we may glorify your name and enjoy your fellowship forever. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 46.1-7, 10-11

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 92

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, you promised that if we confess our sins, you are faithful and just and will forgive us. Humbly we come, seeking your forgiveness; that we may know the joy of your presence, the light of your face. You alone know our hearts: how often we have offended you, how often we have offended others. Forgive us, Lord, for every unkind thought, every false word, every wrong act. Forgive us, for we have lived not for you, but for ourselves. Forgive us for failing to give you thanks, for our neglect of prayer, our ignorance of your Word, our loss of purpose. Heavenly Father, have mercy on us. Create in us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us; by the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 1.18-19

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 181

WE COME, O CHRIST, TO YOU

Confession of Faith

What is adoption?

Adoption is an act of God's free grace,¹ by which we are received as sons of God, and have a right to all the privileges of that standing.²

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 34

¹ "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him" (1 John 3.1).

² "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1.12). "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him" (Rom 8.16-17).

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“Avoiding Jehu’s Arrows”
2 Kings 8.16-9.37
Rev. Ron Gonzales

*Song of Response

Hymn No. 565

ALL FOR JESUS!

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. 642

BE THOU MY VISION

-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 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.

Sunday Evening Worship & Cultural Engagement: On the second Sunday of each month, we gather from 6:00 to 7:15 PM for a brief time of worship followed by teaching and discussion of issues relevant to our society's cultural moment. Pastor Ron and Elder Jacob Schroeder have just begun a study on human sexuality, based on the report adopted by our General Assembly this past June. Reports can be found on the literature table. We meet in the sanctuary, and children are welcome.

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: "Avoiding Jehu's Arrows" (2 Kings 8.16-9.37)

Prayer Concerns

St. Andrews 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. Jay & Bet Denton (Boise State University): Pray for Jay and the RUF staff as they reach out to new students with the gospel and seek to help those who are already Christians grow in their love for God and their understanding of his grace.

Our Helper in Weakness: Paul writes, "The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God" (Rom 8.26-27). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Tom Manning, and Rick & Vickie Myers* might be comforted this week knowing that the Spirit is praying for them even when they do not know how to pray for themselves.

The Persecuted Church: There are 129,000 Christians out of 42 million people in *Algeria*. In the past two years the government has engaged in a systematic closure of Protestant churches. In some cases, Christians have been forcibly expelled by police in the middle of church services. Pressure from family also remains high, particularly for those who were previously Muslim. Pray that they might know God's presence amidst their loss. Pray for converts from Islam, that they would be protected, bold and wise. And pray for those who are rejected by their families for their faith, that they are comforted by the fact that they have a larger global family who stand with them in prayer.

Announcements

Financial Update: The September financial statement has been posted to the church website. If you need the password to view it, Jacob Schroeder would be happy to give it to you.

Joint Reformation Sunday Service: We have been invited by Grace URC (Kennewick) to a joint Reformation service, at 5:00 PM today, followed by a light dinner and fellowship. Grace is located at 2500 W 4th Ave, in Kennewick.

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