

LORD'S DAY
November 21, 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 in heaven, we pray that you will in mercy look down upon us, your family, for whom the Lord Jesus was willing to be betrayed, given up into the hands of wicked men, and suffer death on the cross. Grant us the desires of our hearts this Lord's Day morning: to see you in your majesty and glory, to be renewed in our experience of your grace and love, and to hear your voice speaking in your Word. Help us, by your Spirit, to make a genuine and heartfelt offering of our praise, our love, and ourselves to you. Receive pleasure, this day, from your grateful people; for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 147:7-11

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 714

WE PLOW THE FIELDS

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your great Name, our refusal to relieve the suffering of others, our envy of those who possess more, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, and our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Cleanse us and change our very way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 49.15-16

*Song of Praise to Christ

Hymn No. 170

FAIREST LORD JESUS

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

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.

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

“Standing in the Breach”

2 Kings 11.1-20

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 672

TRUST AND OBEY

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. 460

AMAZING GRACE!

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

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 6:00 to 7:30 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 Philippians on Wednesdays, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, in the Coffee Hour room. All women are invited.

Sermon Notes: "Standing in the Breach" (2 Kings 11.1-20)

Prayer Concerns

A Love That Never Ceases: Jeremiah prayed, “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lam 3.22-23). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Tom Manning, and Rick & Vickie Myers* take rest in the steadfast love of the LORD in the week ahead.

The Persecuted Church: There are 227,000 Christians out of 7 million people in *Laos*, a Buddhist country that is led by a communist regime. Christian gatherings are monitored and churches are often forced to meet in homes. Those who have converted from Buddhism frequently suffer persecution since they are viewed as having rejected their families and communities. Pray for their safety. Pray that they are able to witness to their families and neighbors without fear of oppression. And pray that they have access to Bibles and churches so they can grow in their faith.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church: Pray for Rev. Jeff Glover, our church planter in Soldotna, AK as he shepherds the flock and trains men as officers who will help him do the same.

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

Advent Evensong Services: Next Sunday, at 6:00 PM, we begin four weeks of Sunday evening Advent services. In addition to Scripture readings and Christmas carols, each week we will consider a different aspect of the incarnation.

Directory Update: We will be printing an updated church directory in January. If your information has changed or you would like to be in the directory, please let us know.

Hanging the Greens: We will decorate the sanctuary for Advent next Saturday, at 9:00 AM. If you would like to help, please join us.

Financial Update: The October 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.

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.