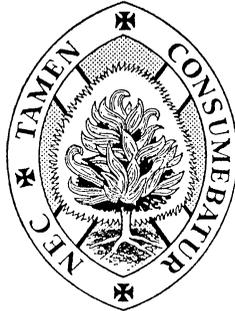


The First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 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, we gather in this place not because we are deserving of your love, nor because we have lived faithfully before your face. We gather here because you called us. You loved us before we could love you. You have given your Son for our salvation. For this we join all creation in blessing you, praising you, and thanking you. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! You are great, and greatly to be praised. As we offer our praise, we long for you to mold us in the image of your Son, whose death and resurrection give us hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 34.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 26

TELL OUT, MY SOUL, THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, we long to enter your presence and worship you face to face, awed by your majesty, greatness and glory, encouraged by your steadfast love. Yet there is often a coldness in our hearts, a hardness and an unwillingness to admit our sin and need of you. Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. Come near and strengthen us until Christ reigns supreme within; in every thought, word, and deed. Give us a faith that purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to you, and always clings to the cross; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

Jeremiah 33.14-16

Lighting the First Advent Candle:

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9.6-7

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1.1-3

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 196

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

-WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER-

Reception of a New Member

Georgia Campbell

Membership Vows

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope except in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to strive for its purity and peace?

Prayer

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“Living So as to Be Missed”

2 Kings 12.1-21

Rev. Ron Gonzales

*Song of Response

Brother Let Me Be Your Servant

Richard Gillard
1977 Scripture in Song
Maranatha! Music



1. Bro - ther, let me be your ser - vant. Let me be as Christ to you.
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney. We are bro - thers on the road.
- 3. I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night time of your fear.
4. I will weep when you are weep - ing. When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5. When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall find such har - mo - ny
6. Bro - ther, let me be your ser - vant. Let me be as Christ to you.



- Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
· I will hold my hand out to you; Speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row 'till we've seen this jour - ney through.
born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my ser - vant too.

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.

***Song of Thanksgiving**

Hymn No. 195

JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME

-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 6:00 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: "Living So as to Be Missed" (2 Kings 12.1-21)

Prayer Concerns

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church: Rev. Craig Harris is planting a church in Yakima. Pray for God's blessing's 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 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.

The God of Salvation: Jonah prayed, "But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD" (Jonah 2.9)! In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Tom Manning, and Rick & Vickie Myers* might be filled with grateful praise for all that God has done and is doing for them.

The Persecuted Church: There are some 9 million Christians out of 97 million people in *Vietnam*, a Buddhist country in which Christians are targeted by both government and tribal leaders. The government tolerates Catholics, but if anyone is thought politically active, they can be imprisoned. In places where religion and ethnic identity are closely tied, Christian converts are often victims of pressure and violence from their families and communities. Pray for those who convert to Christianity and are therefore at risk. Pray they are not deemed a threat by the government. And pray for itinerant pastors to strengthen small churches in rural areas where the gospel and discipleship are most needed.

Announcements

Advent Evensong Service: Join us at 6:00 PM for the first of our evening Advent services. We will be reading Scripture, singing Christmas carols, and tonight, thinking about the incarnation from Galatians 4.4-5.

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.

Explanation of the Cover Symbol

Since the time of the Reformation, the burning bush has been a symbol of the Church. The Latin words are taken from Exodus 3.2 and read "...and yet it was not consumed." In one of his letters, Samuel Rutherford reminded his correspondent, "The bush has been burning these five thousand years, and no man yet saw the ashes of that fire."