

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 5, 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, our hearts desire the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 117.1-2

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Advent**

Hymn No. 203

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, O God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

John 1.9-13

Lighting the Second Advent Candle

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3.1

New Testament Reading

Matthew 3.1-3

***Song of Advent**

Hymn No. 241

THOU DOST REIGN ON HIGH

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

“Two Kinds of Faith”
2 Kings 13.1-25
Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 638

SAVIOR, THY DYING LOVE THOU GAVEST ME

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. 213

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

-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: "Two Kinds of Faith" (2 Kings 13.1-25)

Prayer Concerns

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.

Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan): Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team as they reach out with the love of Christ to the Yakama people during the Christmas season. May their words and deeds bring hope and healing to many on the reservation.

The Nearness of God: David prayed, "The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth" (Ps 145.18). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Ross Dodge, Mike Givens, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers* and *Wayne Snavely* might know the nearness of God as they call upon him as he has revealed himself in his Word.

The Persecuted Church: There are 70,000 Christians out of 6 million people in *Turkmenistan*, which tightly controls every aspect of daily life, including religious worship. While most citizens are Muslim, their allegiance is cultural rather than religious. Christians are more devout, therefore they are more closely monitored. Christian literature is illegal, and so are unregistered churches. Their leaders and congregants live under constant fear of imprisonment. Pray God turns the hearts of Turkmenistan's leaders to himself. Pray for believers who were formerly Muslim, that their faith proves genuine and grows strong despite the pressures they face. And pray for the churches, that they remain safe and are able to gather for worship.

Announcements

Advent Evensong Service: Join us at 6:00 PM for our second evening Advent service. We will be reading Scripture, singing Christmas carols, and tonight, thinking about the incarnation from Philippians 2.6-11.

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.

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

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."