

LORD'S DAY

January 9, 2022



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

Lord of all power and might, Author and Giver of all good things: As we gather in your presence, graft in our hearts the love of your Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and by your great mercy keep us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 96.1-4

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 53

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, no day of our lives has passed that has not proved us guilty in your sight. Prayers have been uttered from prayerless hearts. Praise has often been praiseless sound. Our best services are filthy rags. All things in us call for our rejection, yet all things in Christ plead our acceptance. Grant us to hear your voice assuring us that by your stripes we are healed; that you were bruised for our iniquities, that you became sin for us that we might become righteous in you. Grant that by resting in your righteousness we may hereafter walk in newness of life and run hard after your commandments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 166

WONDROUS KING, ALL-GLORIOUS

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

“God’s Higher Ways”

2 Kings 14.1-29

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 ring 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. 691

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13.14

Gatherings

Home Fellowship Group is on break for the holidays. It will resume its study of 2 Kings on January 18, at 6:00 PM, at the Leinweber's.

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 are leading 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 is on break for the holidays. We will begin a new study January 12 on 2 Corinthians. Please read 1 Corinthians over the holidays in preparation. We will continue to meet on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 PM.

Sermon Notes: "God's Higher Ways" (2 Kings 14.1-29)

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.

The Christian Aid Center cares for many in our community who are hurting and in need. Pray that God continues to convey his love and grace to those they serve.

The Persecuted Church: There are 367,000 Christians out of 2.7 million people in *Qatar*. Christians, especially converts from Islam, risk discrimination, harassment, police monitoring and intimidation. Even one's family can be dangerous in a culture that sees conversion as betrayal. In the Persian Gulf nation, Islam is seen as the only acceptable faith, and conversion remains a capital offense. Pray that the church in Qatar would continue to gather and be strengthened spiritually and in perseverance. Pray for those who are imprisoned for sharing their faith, that they might know God's protection and encouragement. And pray for converts who live in fear of their families learning of their decision.

Rest for Your Souls: Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Mt 11.28-30). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers, Joel Smith* and *Wayne Snavelly* know the rest of Christ in their souls this week as they look to him.

Announcements

High Tea: Our Covenant Women's Event for January will be a High Tea on Saturday, January 22, at 3:00 PM, at the church. We are looking for table hostesses. Please let the Women's Ministry Team know if you would like to host a table. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by January 9.

Second Sunday Evening Worship & Cultural Engagement: We resume our monthly evening worship and study of the PCA's Report on Human Sexuality, tonight taking up the statements on Temptation, Sanctification, and Impeccability. We meet in the sanctuary from 6:00 to 7:15 PM.

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."