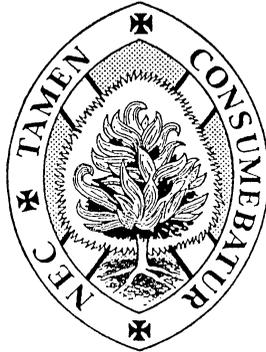


The Second Sunday in Lent

March 13, 2022



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Dr. Ron Gonzales, Minister

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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

Great are you, O Lord, and highly to be praised; great is your power and your wisdom immeasurable. We desire to praise you, human beings carrying the witness of our sin and the knowledge that you resist the proud. Stir us, we pray, to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. Amen.

— Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 95.1-7

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 23

GOD OF GODS, WE SOUND HIS PRAISES

-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. 159

O SAVIOR, PRECIOUS SAVIOR

Confession of Faith

Which is the Third Commandment?

The Third Commandment is, “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”¹

What is required in the Third Commandment?

The Third Commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God’s names,² titles,³ attributes,⁴ ordinances,⁵ Word,⁶ and works.⁷

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Nos. 53 and 54

¹ Exodus 20.7 (ESV)

² Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name” (Mt 6.9). “If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the LORD your God” (Dt 28.58).

³ “Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him” (Ps 68.4)!

⁴ And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed” (Rev 15.3-4).

⁵ “For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. ...Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations” (Mal 1.11, 14).

⁶ “I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word” (Ps 138.1-2).

⁷ “Remember to extol his work, of which men have sung” (Job 36.24).

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

“The Certainty of Judgment”

Hebrews 2.1-4

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 577

STAND UP, MY SOUL; SHAKE OFF YOUR FEARS

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. 455

AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

Gatherings

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 Hebrews 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 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, led by Cherry Gonzales is studying 2 Corinthians. It is meeting on Wednesdays, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, in the Coffee Hour room. Questions for each week can be found on the literature table, and all women are invited.

Sermon Notes: "The Certainty of Judgment" (Hebrews 2.1-4)

Prayer Concerns

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 173,000 Christians out of 83 million people in *Turkey*, an Islamic country entangled in fanatical nationalism. The general opinion is that a true Turk is a Muslim. Hence, pressured to return to Islam, Christian converts experience persecution from family, friends and community. Pray for these believers, that they will not forsake meeting and studying the Bible together. Pray as well that they find ways to share Christ with their friends and families. And pray for the pastors, that they are filled with wisdom as they help the suffering in their congregations, and with boldness as they share the gospel with the lost.

The Protective Hand of God: The Lord said to Israel, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior” (Is 43.2-3). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Nancy Hoeft, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers, Rich Parker, and Wayne Snavely* might know the comforting, protective hand of God this week.

Ukraine: Pray for an end to the war, for a minimal loss of life, and that Ukraine remains a free nation. Pray as well that God uses the church to care for the hurting and the lost.

Announcements

Book Giveaway: We will soon begin building a collection of important books for our church library. But to make room for them we need to find homes for the books we currently have. They are located on the shelves in the chapel. Take as many as you like; they all must go.

Congratulations to Matt & Kristina Halvorson on the birth of Kristoffer Eivind, born March 7, who weighed 9 pounds 1 ounce and was 20 ¾ inches long. Mom and baby are doing very well.

Second Sunday Evening Worship & Cultural Engagement meets tonight, from 6:00 to 7:15, in the sanctuary. The topic: Identity and Language (pp. 11-12 of the Report on Human Sexuality; copies are on the literature table). All are welcome.

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.”