

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022



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

Dear God, silence all voices within our minds but your own. Help us to seek and be able to follow your will. May our prayers be joined with those of our brothers and sisters in the faith, that together we may glorify your name and enjoy your fellowship forever. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 66.1-4

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 77

PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, you promised that if we confess our sins, you are faithful and just and will forgive us. Humbly we come, seeking your forgiveness; that we may know the joy of your presence, the light of your face. You alone know our hearts: how often we have offended you, how often we have offended others. Forgive us, Lord, for every unkind thought, every false word, every wrong act. Forgive us, for we have lived not for you, but for ourselves. Forgive us for failing to give you thanks, for our neglect of prayer, our ignorance of your Word, our loss of purpose. Heavenly Father, have mercy on us. Create in us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us; by the blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 1.7-8

*Song of Praise to Christ

Hymn No. 164

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

Confession of Faith

What is forbidden in the Third Commandment?

The Third Commandment forbids all profaning or abusing of anything by which God makes himself known.¹

What is the reason attached to the Third Commandment?

The reason attached to the Third Commandment is that, however those who break this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not allow them to escape his righteous judgment.²

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Nos. 55 and 56

¹ “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O Priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’ By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the LORD’s table may be despised. ...But you profane it when you say that the Lord’s table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised. ...If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. ...You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts?’ (Mal 1.6-7, 12; 2.2; 3.14)?

² “Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD. ...Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the LORD, for the men treated the offering of the LORD with contempt. ...Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance of the tent of meeting. ...Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel? ...And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them” (1 Sa 2.12, 17, 22, 29; 3.13). “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, then the LORD will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting” (Dt 28.58-59).

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 Humiliation of God the Son”

Hebrews 2.5.18

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 230

THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOR

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. 252

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13.14

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 Humiliation of God the Son" (Hebrews 2.5-18)

Prayer Concerns

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

Stayed in Perfect Peace: Isaiah reminded the Israelites of God's faithfulness, out of which they were to live: "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock" (Is 26.3-4). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Nancy Hoeft, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers, Rich Parker, and Wayne Snavely* are kept in God's peace this week as they trust in their everlasting rock.

The Persecuted Church: There are 55,000 Christians out of nearly a half million people who live in *Brunei*, an independent Islamic sultanate on the northern coast of Borneo. Converting to Christianity is a punishable offense; known converts are separated from their spouses and families. Strict Shariah law regulates all of society, including Christians. Pray for believers who would like to share the gospel but are afraid to do so. Pray for those who worship in secret for fear of reprisal if discovered to be followers of Christ. And pray for the churches that must operate in secret.

Announcements

JBook 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.

Financial Update: The February 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.

Session Meeting: The elders are meeting Thursday, at 5:30 PM, to pray for and conduct the business of the church. Pray for them as they do, and please let them know how they can pray for you

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."