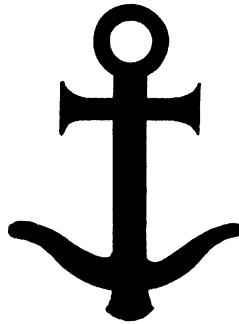


Palm Sunday

April 10, 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

Heavenly Father, Giver and Sustainer of all life: Help us, as we draw near, to love and adore and worship you with all that we are and all that we have to offer, for you alone are worthy. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
**that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.**

This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

**I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

The stone that the builders rejected
has become a cornerstone.

**This is the LORD's doing;
It is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

The LORD is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.

**Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!**

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.

**Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!**

—Psalm 118.19-29

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 2

O WORSHIP THE KING

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you, we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's, that faith is often more show than substance, that our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises, and receive us as your own. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

Zechariah 9.9

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 235

ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR

Confession of Faith

Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?

From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath.¹

How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?

The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day,² even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days;³ and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship,⁴ except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.⁵

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Nos. 59 and 60

¹ "And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation" (Gn 2.2-3). "Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come" (1 Cor 16.1-2). "On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight" (Acts 20.7).

² "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates" (Ex 20.8, 10). "Moses said, 'Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none.' On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. And the LORD said to Moses, 'How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws'" (Ex 16.25-28)?

³ See Nehemiah 13.15-22.

⁴ "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read" (Lk 4.16). "From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD" (Isa 66.23). See also Acts 20.7 and Psalm 9 (the superscription).

⁵ See Matthew 12.1-31 (especially verse 12: "It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath").

Prayer for the Church and the World

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“Our Great High Priest”
Hebrews 4.14-16
Rev. Ron Gonzales

*Song of Response

Hymn No. 311

HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED

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.

*Song of Thanksgiving

Hymn No. 246

MAN OF SORROWS! WHAT A NAME

-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: "Our Great High Priest" (Hebrews 4.14-16)

Prayer Concerns

God Our Help: We read this promise in Isaiah: “For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, ‘Fear not, I am the one who helps you’” (Is 41.13). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Nancy Hoeft, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers, Rich Parker, and Wayne Snavelly* are filled with courage as they rest in their Helper this week.

The Persecuted Church: There are 3 million Christians out of 32 million people living in *Malaysia*, where every ethnic Malay is expected to be Muslim. Whoever deviates from this is viewed as going against the constitution and society at large. Evangelicals in particular are an affront and therefore targeted, as they tend to be outspoken about their faith. Pray for such Christians, that they are strengthened and encouraged in their commitment to Christ. Pray for new believers who are often expelled from their homes and sent to re-education camps in an attempt to dissuade them from the faith. And pray for political and social stability, that it leads to religious freedom.

Rev. Alister & Sarah Torrens (Ukraine): Sarah wrote this week that they are still in Northern Ireland, though regularly checking in with friends in Kyiv. So far their home and the seminary have not been bombed, nor has anyone in their church been injured. Saphira is still in pain but starting to hobble around without a crutch. She begins physical therapy later this month. Since Sarah’s visa to the UK expires in June and she is not permitted to return for six months, the family will return to the US this summer. In addition to everything else, pray for their transportation needs while they are back. They could use a car or van that seats 6 people.

Ukraine: Pray for an end to the war, that Ukraine remains a free nation and that God continues to use his people to bring help to the hurting and the lost.

Announcements

Covenant Women’s Luncheon: What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ? We will explore this topic at our next women’s gathering: A luncheon on Saturday, May 21, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, at the church. All women and teen girls are invited.

Financial Update: The March 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.

Good Friday Service: Please join us this Friday from 6:00 to 7:00 PM, as we reflect on the passion and death of our Savior.

The Second Sunday Evening Worship will not take place this month. It will resume on May 15.

Explanation of the Cover Symbol

The anchor is an ancient Christian symbol for hope. It is derived from Hebrews 6.19: “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul...” When combined with a cross it makes plain that Christian hope is in Christ and His redemption. The symbol was frequently used in this sense in the catacombs of ancient Rome.