

LORD'S DAY

August 7, 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

Father, your mercies have brought us to the dawn of another Lord's Day. Vain will be its gift unless we know you, love you, and admire you more fully. Allow us to do so, O Lord, knowing that the ability to worship is not in us, but in your enabling love. Lead us and tend us by the hand of the Good Shepherd himself. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 89.5-18

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 92

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed; not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires that we are unable to understand, but which are all known to you. We, therefore, flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we can delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 1.18

*Song of Praise to Christ

Hymn No. 296

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME!

Confession of Faith

How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith to salvation.¹

How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?

That the Word may become effectual to salvation we must attend to it with diligence,² preparation,³ and prayer;⁴ receive it with faith and love;⁵ lay it up in our hearts;⁶ and I practice it in our lives.⁷

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Nos. 89-90

¹ "They read from the book of the Law of God and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading" (Neh 8.8). "...the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes" (Ps 19.8). "And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20.32). "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3.16-17).

² "Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors" (Pr 8.34).

³ "So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation" (1 Pet 2.1-2).

⁴ "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law" (Ps 119.18).

⁵ "...and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved" (2 Thess 2.10). "For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened" (Heb 4.2).

⁶ "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Ps 119.11).

⁷ "As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience" (Lk 8.15). "But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing" (Jas 1.25).

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.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 14.21-31

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“God is Our Refuge...Therefore We Will Not Fear”

Psalm 46.1-11

Rev. Alister Torrens

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 691

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

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

-OBSEVRING THE SACRAMENTS-

The Lord's Supper

We celebrate the Lord's Supper by coming forward (generally from the back of the sanctuary to the front) and partaking of the bread and the cup. Wine is served in the inner ring of each tray; grape juice in the outer rings. 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. 30

OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13.14

Gatherings

Home Fellowship Group, led by Pastor Ron, meets on the first and third Tuesday of the 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.

Sermon Notes: "God is Our Refuge...Therefore We Will Not Fear" (Psalm 46.1-11)

Prayer Concerns

Rev. Drew & Jessica Burdette (Boise State University): Pray for the Burdettes as they settle into Boise and prepare to meet the students in just a couple weeks. Pray that they and the staff find open doors for effective ministry on the campus, and that the Lord continues to bless the work of RUF as he has so wonderfully done over the last 10 years.

The Persecuted Church: There are nearly 2 million Christians out of 42.5 million people living in *Sudan*. The church there is currently at great risk. The secession of South Sudan in 2011 has left Christians vulnerable as Islamic conservatives push for a Shariah state. The government has arrested many Christian leaders and several churches have been demolished. Extremists have attacked believers, especially in the Nuba Mountain region, where thousands have been killed or displaced. Pray that Christians will have the freedom to worship without fear of violence, that they will be sustained in their faith despite the difficulty, and that they will have access to Bibles and to Christian discipleship.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church: Pray for the Rev. Jeff Glover, our church planter in Soldotna, AK as he prepares the congregation for electing elders and deacons, and as he continues to reach out with the love of Christ to those in the Kenai Peninsula.

Refuge and Joy: David prayed, "Let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you" (Ps 5.11). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Nancy Hoeft, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers, Rich Parker* and *Wayne Snavely* take refuge in the Lord this week and, in doing so, are filled with great joy.

Ukraine: Pray for safety, comfort, and courage for Ukrainian churches and their pastors. Pray for peace in Ukraine, for wisdom, for provision, and that God would bring to nothing Putin's plans to destroy Ukraine.

Announcements

A Report from the Torrens: Please join us for an extended Coffee Hour, following this morning's service, to learn more from Alister and Sarah about what is happening in Ukraine and in their ministry, and how we can be praying for them.

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."