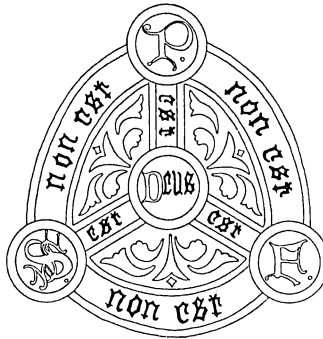


**The First Sunday in Advent**  
**November 27, 2022**



**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**

Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal, you are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing; help us to praise you now for sending your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts wait, and to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and dominion, now and forever. Amen.

**\*Call to Worship**

Lift up your head, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?**

**The LORD, strong and mighty,  
The LORD, mighty in battle!**

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?**

**The LORD of hosts,  
He is the King of glory!**

—Psalm 24.7-10

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**\*Song of Advent**

*Hymn No. 198*

*LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES!*

## **-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-**

### **Confession of Sin**

Almighty and all holy Father: We confess ourselves unworthy of your unspeakable gift. We have not loved you as we ought, nor have we always been loving, kindhearted, and forgiving toward one another, as you, for Christ's sake, have been toward us. We have lived in selfishness and worldly pride, and the good gifts you have bestowed, we have not used to relieve the burdens of others. Pardon and blot out our offenses, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Zephaniah 3.14-17

### **Lighting of the First Advent Candle**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9.6.7

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 1.1-3

### **\*Song of Advent**

*Hymn No. 196*

*COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS*

### **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 Faith of Abraham”  
Romans 4.13-25  
Rev. Ron Gonzales

**\*Song of Response**

*Hymn No. 648*

*MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE*

**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 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 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. 195*

*JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

### **Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

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### **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 Romans 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.

*Women's Studies*: This fall women are meeting in pairs or small groups to study 1 and 2 Timothy. Study guides are available on the literature table. If you need help finding a partner or a group, please let us know.

**Sermon Notes: "The Faith of Abraham" (Romans 4.13-25)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan):* Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team as they minister to the Yakama people, that God uses them to convey the love of Christ to many, and that through their witness a great number on the reservation come to know the Savior and grow in him.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 97 million Christians out of 1.4 billion people in *China*, which seeks to make every religious belief, including Christianity, accord with communism. The result is constant pressure, governmental surveillance, and severe control over believers. Pray for the church as it adjusts to ever tightening restrictions on religious freedom. Pray for those who convert from Islam and Buddhism, that they find strength and fellowship. And pray that Christ reveals himself to government officials who seek to control the church.

*Redeemer Presbyterian Church:* Pray for Rev. Jeff Glover, our church planter in Soldotna, AK as he shepherds the flock and trains men as officers who will help him do the same.

*Taking Refuge in the Lord:* David prayed, "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by" (Ps 57.1). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Paul Carmichael, George Carpenter, Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Nancy Hoeft, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, and Rick & Vickie Myers* take refuge in the Lord this week.

## **Announcements**

*Advent Services:* We will have three Sunday evening Advent services, December 4, 11, and 18, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. In addition to Scripture readings and Christmas carols, each week we will consider how the incarnate Son is the fulfillment of God's revelation of himself.

*Directory Update:* We will be printing an updated church directory in December. If your information has changed or you would like to be in the directory, please let us know.

*The Women of Covenant* will be having a Christmas Brunch from 9:00 to noon on Saturday, December 10. Mark your calendars. We will be discussing 1 and 2 Timothy. Please come whether you have studied it or not. And bring a dish to share.

### **Explanation of Cover Symbol**

The Shield of the Holy Trinity is frequently found in stained glass windows of medieval churches. This emblem expresses the Christian doctrine of the trinity of Almighty God, a truth taught in Scripture and affirmed by the Council of Constantinople in AD 381.