

LORD'S DAY
November 6, 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

O Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldst come to me.
Speak but the word; one gracious word can set the sinner free.
I am not worthy; cold and bare the lodging of my soul.
How canst Thou deign to enter there? Speak, Lord! and make me whole.
I am not worthy; yet, my God, how can I say Thee nay,
Thee, Who didst give Thy flesh and blood my ransom price to pay?
O come, in this sweet morning hour feed me with food Divine;
And fill with all Thy love and power this empty heart of mine. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 135.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 12

EXALT THE LORD, HIS PRAISE PROCLAIM

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, our soul is like a house, small for you to enter, but we pray that you will enlarge it. It is in ruins, but we ask you to remake it. It contains much that you will not be pleased to see; this we know and do not hide. But to whom can we cry except you? Forgive us, O Lord. Cleanse us from our sins, our secret sins. What wretches we are! In your mercy, tell us what you are to us. "Say to my soul, 'I am your salvation'" (Ps 35.3)! Come, O God, and stir our hearts. Call us back to yourself. Kindle your fire in us and carry us away. Be our fire and our sweetness. Let us love you and hasten to your side; in Jesus' name. Amen.

— Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

Silently add your own confession of sin.

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 176

HAIL, THOU ONCE DESPISED JESUS!

Confession of Faith

For what do we pray in the fifth petition?

In the fifth petition, which is, “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,”¹ we pray that God, for Christ’s sake, would freely pardon all our sins;² which we are more encouraged to ask because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.³

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 105

Prayer for the Church and the World

¹ “...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Mt 6.12).

² “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ...Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ...Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities” (Ps 51.1-2, 7, 9). “Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name” (Dan 9.17-19).

³ “...and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us” (Lk 11.4). “So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart” (Mt 18.35).

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“A Race in Ruin”
Romans 3.1-20
Rev. Ron Gonzales

*Song of Response

Hymn No. 253

THERE IS A FOUNTAIN FILLED WITH BLOOD

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**

A Debtor to Mercy Alone

words Augustus M Toplady, 1740-1778 mOD.
music Eileen Davis 2000



1. A debt - or to mer - cy a - lone, of cov - e - nant mer - cy I sing; nor
2. The work which his - good - ness be - gan, the arm of his strength will - com - plete; his
3. My name from the palms of his hands e - ter - ni - ty will not e - raise; im -



fear with your righ - teous - ness on, my per - son and of - f'ring to bring. The
prom - ise is yea and a - men, and nev - er was for - feit - ed yet. Things
pressed on his heart it re - mains, in marks of in - del - i - ble grace. Yes,



ter - rors of law and of God with me can have noth - ing to do; my
fu - ture, nor things that are now, nor all things be - low or - a - bove, can
I to the end shall en - dure, as sure as the ear - nest is giv'n; more



Sav - ior's o - be - dience and blood hide all my trans - gres - sions from view.
make him his pur - pose for - go, or sev - er my soul from his love.
hap - py, but not more se - cure, the glo - ri - fied spir - its in heav'n.

-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 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: "A Race in Ruin" (Romans 3.1-20)

Prayer Concerns

Boise Presbyterian Church: Pray for Rev. Brian Frey, our church planter in Boise, as he seeks to develop leaders for this congregation, that together they might become a people who love one another and outsiders well as they continue to grow in grace.

The LORD's Watchful & Steadfast Love; The psalmist writes, "Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love" (Ps 33.18). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Paul Carmichael, Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Nancy Hoeft, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, and Rick & Vickie Myers* fix their hope on the LORD's steadfast love and know his watchful care.

The Persecuted Church: There are some 230,000 Christians out of more than 7 million people in *Laos*, a Buddhist country that is led by a communist regime. Christian gatherings are monitored and churches are often forced to meet in homes. Those who have converted from Buddhism frequently suffer persecution since they are viewed as having rejected their families and communities. Pray for their safety. Pray that they are able to witness to their families and neighbors without fear of oppression. And pray that they have access to Bibles and churches so they can grow in their faith.

Rev. Alister & Sarah Torrens and their children remain in Northern Ireland, from whence Alister is teaching remotely while they await the end of the war in Ukraine so they can return to Kyiv where Alister oversees the Evangelical Reformed Seminary. Pray this is soon possible, and that in the interim God protects and provides for the Ukrainians as they endure great suffering.

Announcements

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.

Visitors: Welcome to Covenant! We are glad you are here and would love to have you join us for some refreshments and fellowship following the service.

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.