

The Third Sunday in Advent
December 11, 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

A voice cries:

*"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."*

O Lord, as we worship today, help us to prepare to welcome your dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation. Help us to worship you.

—based on Isaiah 40.3

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 98.1-3

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Advent**

Hymn No. 208

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFULL

-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

Mark 10.45

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 53.2-5

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 2.14-15, 17

***Song of Advent**

Hymn No. 194

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

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 Tale of Two Humanities”

Romans 5.12-21

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 227

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING

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. 200

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

-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 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 Tale of Two Humanities" (Romans 5.12-21)

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 Keeper of Our Lives: The psalmist writes, “The LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore” (Ps 121.5-8). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Paul Carmichael, George Carpenter, Sandy Cupilillo, Mike Givens, Nancy Hoeft, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers, and Danielle Parker* know God’s protective and comforting hand in the week ahead.

The Persecuted Church: There are 3.6 million Christians out of 4.8 million people in *The Central African Republic*, making Christianity the main religion. Most of the country, however, is occupied by armed militia, with numerous groups targeting Christians. Over the last few years, tens of thousands have been displaced, with those denouncing the violence suffering the most. Pray these believers know God’s peace and provision amidst the chaos and uncertainty. Pray for God’s protection over their leaders as they minister to their congregations. And pray for those who are enduring threats from their families and communities.

Announcements

Birthdays This Week:

December 17 Georgia Campbell

Advent Service: Tonight’s Advent Service will focus on the revelation of God’s name, beginning with Exodus 3 and culminating in Philippians 2. Join us from 6:00 to 7:00 for Scripture readings, Christmas carols, and time exploring this important theme.

Financial Update: The November financial statement has been posted to the church website. If you need the password to access it, Jacob Schroeder would be happy to help you.

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

Explanation of 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.