

LORD'S DAY
January 8, 2023



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 66.1-4

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 77

PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

O Lord, all that we are is laid bare before you. What could be hidden within us, even if we were unwilling to confess it? We would be hiding you from ourselves, not ourselves from you. And we make our confession not in words alone, but with the voice of our soul and in our thoughts which cry aloud to you. When we are evil, making confession to you is simply to be displeased with ourselves. When we are good, it is to make no claim on our own behalf, for without you we can do nothing. And so we confess our many sins of thought, word, and deed. We love you and so we are ashamed of ourselves and, once again, choose you and your will. Forgive us and help us to seek no pleasure for ourselves except that which is also pleasure for you; in Jesus' name. Amen.

—Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*

Silently add your own confession of sin.

***Song of Faith in Christ**

Hymn No. 455

AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN

Confession of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

—The Apostles' Creed¹

¹ Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated as a baptismal confession, probably in the second century, and developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century.

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

“Wanted: Dead and Alive”

Romans 6.1-14

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 686

THY WAY, NOT MINE, O LORD

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.

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. 693

BLESSED ASSURANCE

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13.14

Gatherings

Home Fellowship Group is on break. The group will resume its study of Romans January 17. Everyone is invited!

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: "Wanted: Dead and Alive" (Romans 6.1-14)

Prayer Concerns

Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church: Rev. Craig Harris is planting a church in Yakima. Pray for God's blessing as he gives himself to this work, and that the Lord leads him to many who are hungry to hear and respond to the gospel.

The Christian Aid Center cares for many in our community who are hurting and in need. Pray that God continues to convey his love and grace to those they serve

The Persecuted Church: There are 461,000 Christians out of 19.6 million people in *Mali*, a west African nation. While the majority of Malians practice a relatively tolerant version of Islam, the recent growth of jihadist groups has resulted in a rise of violent attacks against Christians and Christian churches. Pray for peace and protection. Pray for families who have lost loved ones, that they know God's presence and comfort. And pray for those who have left Islam to follow Christ, that they grow in their faith and are strengthened in their resolve to follow the Savior.

A Shield and Buckler: The psalmist assures us, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty...For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler" (Ps 91.1, 3-4). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Paul Carmichael, Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Nancy Hoeft, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers* and *Danielle Parker* take shelter this week under God's mighty care.

Announcements

Church Directory: Drafts of the updated directory can be reviewed during the Coffee Hour today and next Sunday. Please correct any errors you find. Final copies will be available January 22.

Sunday School for all ages begins today.

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 Cover Symbol

The Chi Rho symbol is one of the most ancient Christian symbols. XP, the first two letters of the Greek "Christ," is an abbreviation of the name of the Lord. This symbol is often, as here, accompanied with other symbols, in this case "Alpha" and "Omega," the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The symbol originates from Revelation 22.13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (cf. Revelation 1.8, 17; 21.6). This particular symbol dates from the first few centuries of the Christian era and is often found on tombs.