

LORD'S DAY
February 19, 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

Great are you, O Lord, and highly to be praised; great is your power and your wisdom immeasurable. We desire to praise you, human beings carrying the witness of our sin and the knowledge that you resist the proud. Stir us, we pray, to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. Amen.

—Adapted from Augustine's Confessions

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 93.1-4

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 75

O FATHER, YOU ARE SOVEREIGN

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, we come to you as your sons and your servants, grateful for the redemption that is ours in Jesus Christ, yet aware of our continuing need of your grace. We confess that we have sinned against you; we have broken your commandments; we have fallen short of your glory. We have not loved you with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We were born in sin and have continued to sin. We acknowledge our guilt and recognize that we rightly fall under your curse and judgment. Blot out our transgressions, wash away our iniquities, forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Have mercy on us, O Lord; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 165

YE SERVANTS OF GOD, YOUR MASTER PROCLAIM

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

“The Mystery of Divine Election”

Romans 9.1-24

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 469

HOW SWEET AND AWESOME IS THE PLACE

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 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. 688

HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD!

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13.14

Gatherings

Covenant Women: Continuing with their small group model, the women are reading through Ezra and Nehemiah this winter. If you are interested in doing so as well, grab a study from the literature table, and let Jenni Early or Chris McBean know if you are looking for a partner or a group.

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.

Sermon Notes: "The Mystery of Divine Election" (Romans 9.1-24)

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.

I Am With You Wherever You Go: The LORD said to Joshua, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go” (Josh 1.9). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Paul Carmichael, Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Nancy Hoeft, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers* and *Dani Parker* draw courage this week from God’s enabling presence.

The Persecuted Church: There are 4 million Christians out of 18 million people in *Kazakhstan*. Formerly part of the Soviet Union, it is illegal for non-registered churches to gather, forcing most Christians to meet in secret, often leading to police raids during services. Aside from governmental mistreatment, converts from Islam bear the brunt of the persecution, including house arrest, physical violence, and excommunication. Pray for the safety of Kazakh believers and church leaders. Pray for converts under house arrest. And pray for the government authorities suppressing the gospel, that God opens their eyes and grants them faith.

Rev. Alister & Sarah Torrens: We have not heard if Alister’s plans to make a trip to Ukraine in early 2023 have come to fruition. Pray for the timing and logistics of this endeavor, and for his safety when he is able to travel. Pray for Sarah and the children, while he is away. And, of course, continue to pray for those in Ukraine, suffering the ravages of war, that they would be spared and that the war would soon come to an end.

Turkey & Syria: Pray for those affected by the devastating earthquakes that struck southeastern Turkey and the surrounding region.

Announcements

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.