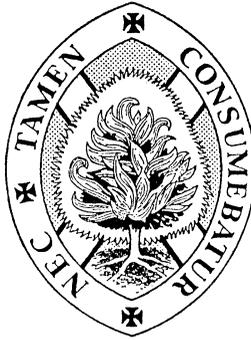


# First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023



# 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**

Father in heaven, we pray that you will in mercy look down upon us, your family, for whom the Lord Jesus was willing to be betrayed, given up into the hands of wicked men, and suffer death on the cross. Grant us the desires of our hearts this Lord's Day morning: to see you in your majesty and glory, to be renewed in our experience of your grace and love, and to hear your voice speaking in your Word. Help us, by your Spirit, to make a genuine and heartfelt offering of our praise, our love, and ourselves to you. Receive pleasure, this day, from your grateful people; for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 33.1-9

### **\*Prayer of Adoration**

### **\*Song of Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 24*

*VAST THE IMMENSITY, MIRROR OF MAJESTY*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

Our Father, forgive us for thinking small thoughts of you and for ignoring your immensity and greatness. Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget that you rule the nations and our small lives. Holy Spirit, we offend you in minimizing your power and squandering your gifts. We confess that our blindness to your glory, O triune God, has resulted in shallow confession, tepid conviction, and only mild repentance. Have mercy on us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

**\*Song of Praise to Christ**

*Hymn No. 305*

*ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE*

**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' Creed<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## Prayer for the Church and World

### -ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

#### Sermon

“Unsearchable Judgements and Inscrutable Ways”

Romans 9.18-29

Rev. Ron Gonzales

#### \*Song of Response

*Hymn No. 109*

*LORD, MY WEAK THOUGHT IN VAIN WOULD CLIMB*

### 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. 32*

*GREAT IS THY FAITHFULLNESS*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

**Benediction**

Numbers 6.24-26

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### **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: "Unsearchable Judgements and Inscrutable Ways" (Romans 9.18-29)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Rev. Drew & Jessica Burdette* (Boise State University): Pray for the Burdettes and the RUF staff as they reach out to students with the gospel and disciple those who know Christ and are eager to grow in their faith.

*The God of Our Salvation*: “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation” (Is 12.2). In addition to healing, pray that this week *Sandy Cupolillo, Mike Givens, Nancy Hoeft, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers* and *Dani Parker* know the Lord’s strength and are filled with his peace.

*The Persecuted Church*: There are 173,000 Christians out of 83 million people in *Turkey*, an Islamic country entangled in fanatical nationalism. The general opinion is that a true Turk is a Muslim. Hence pressured to return to Islam, Christian converts experience persecution from family, friends and community. Pray for these believers, that they will not forsake meeting and studying the Bible together. Pray as well that they find ways to share Christ with their friends and families. And pray for the pastors, that they are filled with wisdom as they help the suffering in their congregations, and with boldness as they share the gospel with the lost.

*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.

## **Announcements**

*Congregational Meeting*: An informational meeting will be held following the Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 12. Come to hear updates, ask questions, and pray about all that is going on at Covenant: sabbatical planning, finances, the building, our various ministries, and more.

*Financial Update*: The January 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.

*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**

Since the time of the Reformation, the burning bush has been a symbol of the Church. The Latin words are taken from Exodus 3.2 and read “...and yet it was not consumed.” In one of his letters, Samuel Rutherford reminded his correspondent, “The bush has been burning these five thousand years, and no man yet saw the ashes of that fire.”