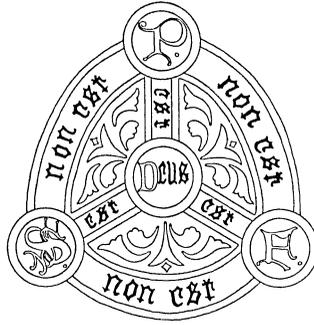


The Third Sunday in Lent
March 12, 2023



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

Almighty God, from whom every good prayer comes, who pours out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication: Deliver us, as we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 99.1-5

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Song of Praise to God**

Hymn No. 100

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!

-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, teach us not to sin with such abandon. We do it all too easily. We pretend, lie, envy and lust, we criticize, brood, ignore and deny, we hoard, defame, distort and make excuses, and then we expect an easy forgiveness for the asking. Lord God, forgive us for our blatant disregard of your holy character. Let us not misinterpret your patience with our sin as if it were permissiveness. Astonish us with a wholesome, godly fear which will not drive us to despair, but cause us to number our days and give us hearts of wisdom; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silently add your own confession of sin.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 1.18

***Song of Praise to Christ**

Hymn No. 310

REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING

***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

Prayer for the Church and the World

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.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 52.1-10

-ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

Sermon

“God’s Beautiful People”

Romans 10.14-21

Rev. Ron Gonzales

***Song of Response**

Hymn No. 450

SO SEND I YOU

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. 455

AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN

-GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

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: "God's Beautiful People" (Romans 10.14-21)

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.

A Love That Never Ceases: Jeremiah prayed, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lam 3.22-23). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Nancy Hoeft, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers* and *Dani Parker* take rest in the steadfast love of the LORD in the week ahead.

The Persecuted Church: There are approximately 900,000 Christians out of 168 million people in *Bangladesh*, the vast majority of whom are Muslim. Those who convert from Islam meet in small house churches for fear of attack, and those who belong to ethnic minority groups are doubly vulnerable, since they are harassed for both their religion and their ethnicity. Pray for Christians who meet in secret but desire to share their faith despite the risks they face. Pray for those who have had to flee their communities out of pressure to renounce their faith. And pray that God brings salvation to many through the witness of these faithful saints.

Announcements

Congregational Meeting: Please join us during the Coffee Hour today 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.

Diaconal Slate: A brief meeting of the membership will occur after worship on April 2 to vote on the deacon candidates the Session recently presented.

Financial Update: The February 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.

Givens' Funeral: The service for Mike Givens will be this Saturday, at 1:00 PM, at the church.

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 Shield of the Holy Trinity is frequently found in stained glass windows of medieval churches. This emblem expresses the Christian doctrine of the trinity of Almighty God, a truth taught in Scripture and affirmed by the Council of Constantinople in AD 381.