

**The Second Sunday in Lent**  
**March 5, 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**

In confidence of Thy goodness and great mercy, O Lord, I draw near unto Thee, as a sick man to the healer, as one hungry and thirsty to the fountain of life, a creature to the Creator, a desolate soul to my own tender Comforter. Behold, in Thee is all whatsoever I can or ought to desire; Thou art my salvation and my redemption, my hope and my strength. Rejoice therefore the soul of Thy servant; for unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. Amen.

—Thomas a Kempis, AD 1380-1471

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

Psalm 145.1-3, 10

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

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

*Hymn No. 15*

*ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING*

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

### **Confession of Sin**

Almighty God, we confess that we are unworthy of your mercy and grace. We have not loved you as we ought, nor have we loved or forgiven others as you, for Christ's sake, have loved and forgiven us. Too often we have lived in selfishness and pride, receiving the good gifts you have given, but failing to use them to bless and relieve the burdens of others. Pardon our offenses, we pray. Grant us the grace to feel and lament our share in the evil that made it necessary for Jesus to suffer and die for our salvation. Give us a true longing to be free from sin, through the deliverance wrought by our Lord and only Redeemer. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

**\*Song of Praise to Christ**

*Hymn No. 164*

*O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING*

**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.

## **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**

“How Saving Faith Speaks”

Romans 9.30-10.13

Rev. Ron Gonzales

#### **\*Song of Response**

*Hymn No. 529*

*LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING*

## **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. 523*

*MY HOPE IS IN THE LORD*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

**Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

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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: "How Saving Faith Speaks" (Romans 9.30-10.13)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*The Giver of Every Good Thing:* Jesus reassured his disciples by saying, "Which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him" (Mt 7.9-11). In addition to strength and healing, pray that *Sandy Cupolillo, Nancy Hoeft, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Rick & Vickie Myers and Dani Parker* receive from the Father this week the good things they need.

*Rev. Tom & Melissa Manning:* Several Frontiers' missionaries and those they were ministering to, many of whom the Mannings know personally, were injured or killed in the recent earthquakes in southeastern Turkey. Pray for those who have suffered such devastation, and pray for Tom and Melissa as they seek to help, through counseling and prayer and other practical means.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 55,000 Christians out of a half million people who live in *Brunei*, an independent Islamic sultanate on the northern coast of Borneo. Converting to Christianity is a punishable offense; known converts are separated from their spouses and families. Strict Shariah law regulates all of society, including Christians. Pray for believers who would like to share the gospel but are afraid to do so. Pray for those who worship in secret for fear of reprisal if they are discovered to be followers of Christ. And pray for the churches that must operate in secret.

## **Announcements**

*Congregational Meeting:* An informational meeting will be held following the Coffee Hour next Sunday. 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.

*Covenant Women* will meet to discuss the books of Ezra and Nehemiah on Wednesday, May 17, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the church. Please come, whether you have done the study or not. And please bring a finger-food to share.

*Diaconal Slate:* On Friday the Session announced a slate of candidates for the office of deacon, nominated by the membership, who have completed the required training, and who the Session believes are qualified. They are Peter Early, John McBean, and Rich Parker. There will be a brief meeting, after worship on April 2, for members to vote on these candidates.