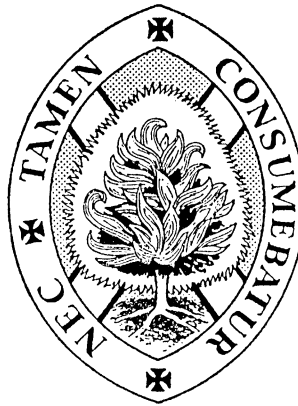


# LORD'S DAY

April 28, 2024



# 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**

Lord of all power and might, Author and Giver of all good things: As we gather in your presence, graft in our hearts the love of your Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and by your great mercy keep us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 100.1-5

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**\*Song of Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 65*

*BEFORE JEHOVAH'S AWESOME THRONE*

**-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-**

**Confession of Sin**

Heavenly Father, what could move hearts like ours, which have your Son, yet still lack confidence? Would another sacrifice convince the guilty of your grace? Would health convince the ailing of your care? Would more money convince the struggling of your kindness? Would a miracle convince the doubter that you hear prayers? O God, our sin is ever before you. You gave your own Son, yet we still doubt you. He is our consolation, but trouble makes us question your care; our shield, but persecution makes us slow to speak your name; our provision, but hunger makes us neglect your kingdom; our atonement, but death makes us fear your judgment. What more could be given to a people? What more could be done? Forgive us our folly; forgive us our sins and give us confidence in the gift of your Son, in whose name we pray. 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' 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**

"Never Stop Laughing"  
Genesis 17.15-18.15  
Rev. Ron Gonzales

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

*Hymn No. 460*

*AMAZING GRACE!*

### **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.*

## **-OBSERVING THE SACRAMENT-**

### **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 clear cups, grape juice in the colored cups. 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. 693*

*BLESSED ASSURANCE*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

**Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

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### **Gatherings**

*The Women of Covenant* will meet monthly this summer for book club. The first book, *5 Minutes in Church History*, by Stephen Nichols, will be discussed May 29, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, at the church. A list of the other books, and the dates they will be discussed, has been posted on the bulletin board above the literature table. There will be two copies of each in the church library for those who prefer to borrow, rather than purchase them.

*A Women's Bible Study Through Colossians*, led by Cherry Gonzales, meets Saturdays, at 8:15 AM, in the Coffee Hour room. Bible study booklets are available on the literature table, and all women are invited. If you are unable to attend and would like to study the book on your own, or with a friend, please feel free to take one.

*A Men's Leadership Bible Study*, led by Kirk Alden, meets Fridays, 6:00-7:00 AM, in the Coffee Hour room. They are going through a series entitled, "Leadership by the Book," in which 52 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 Study through the Gospel of John*, led by Paul Carmichael, Jacob Schroeder, and Pastor Ron, meets Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 AM, in the Coffee Hour room. Questions for this week's study can be found on the literature table. All men are invited.

*Home Fellowship Group*, led by Pastor Ron, meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Chad and Heidi Leinwebers', from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. They are studying Genesis, and all 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 Coffee Hour room, to pray for one another, for the kingdom, and the world. Please join us.

**Sermon Notes: "Never Stop Laughing" (Genesis 17.15-18.15)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church (Yakima):* Pray for the new elders and deacon as they carry out their work of leading the church alongside Rev. Craig Harris. Pray for the congregation as they adjust to this new phase of ministry, with a Session in place. And pray for continued outreach opportunities and for the Lord's continued financial provision.

*Deliverance From Every Fear:* David prayed, "I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears" (Ps 34.4). In addition to strength and healing, pray that this week *Kristi Alden, Leslie Carmichael, Judie Jud, Tom Manning, Rick Myers, Jacob Schroeder, and Verne Snavelly* might know God's deliverance from every fear.

*Rev. Tom & Melissa Manning:* Tom's health and strength continue to improve. He and Melissa will travel to Egypt and Jordan June 22 – July 9. Tom will speak 10 times and Melissa twice at a conference for missionaries, then they will visit team leaders they have been coaching from a distance and old friends they continue to disciple from a far. Pray that God readies them for this trip, and that Tom's strength continues to multiply.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 118 million professing Christians out of 144 million people living in *Russia*. In Muslim-dominated regions, those who convert from Islam suffer persecution from family, friends, and community members. The far greater threat, however, comes from the government, which surveils its citizens. Pray for the safety of church members when they are arrested and interrogated by the police. And pray that suspicion of Protestants who receive support from foreign organizations will not be an impediment to the growth and health of the church in Russia.

## **Announcements**

*Men & Boys:* Join us downstairs this coming Saturday, at 8:00 AM, for our monthly fellowship breakfast. And be sure to bring a friend or neighbor.

*Psalms Sing:* All are invited to the Schroeders' next Sunday, at 6:00 PM, to sing psalms (and hymns) and enjoy some good fellowship. Feel free to bring some finger food to share.