

REJOICE

To rejoice in Christ is too often forgotten by the people of God. It is quite easy for us to lose ourselves in our own preoccupations and cares—the problems of feeding and clothing our families, the struggle for our careers, our bodily comforts. Even when our attention is turned away from ourselves we can forget the joy of the Christian life. There is so much to object to in the world—its strife, its vain illusions of a remedy, its unwillingness to receive the Christ, who is the way and the truth. Nor is the situation much better in the church, with its many failures in the proclamation of the gospel and its frequent powerlessness over evil. Turning toward ourselves, the world, or even the church, we can find so much to complain about that our vision is distorted and we no longer rejoice.

This does not mean that Christians should close their eyes to that which is evil. Evil is not simply appearance, without reality. It is a real, mighty force, which distorts and enslaves. But with our eyes wide open, acknowledging that there is evil within ourselves, in the world, and even in the church, Christians nevertheless know that the victory over evil has been won. Therefore we rejoice!

The victory has already been assured by the one who has been exalted above all principalities and powers, who has become the head of the church, his body, and who will come to show forth his power and glory. This victory towers above all that which is weak and broken. The world sighs for redemption; there will be a new heaven and a new earth. The church knows its heresy, its weakness, its schism; it will be given a white garment fitting for the bride of Christ. The Christian languishes; but in him has been placed a well of water springing up to everlasting life.

Though evil appears to triumph, the victory belongs to Christ. Though the Christian faith reveals to man his sin and the judgment of God, it is first of all a message of triumph and joy. The apostle Paul says, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.” Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory in our Lord Jesus Christ!

*Rejoice in the
Lord always;
again I will say,
rejoice.*

Philippians 4:4

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 23

“God of Gods, We Sound His Praises”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 48

*“O Lord Most High, with All My Heart”***CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE**

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty, eternal God and Father, we confess and acknowledge unto thee that we were conceived in unrighteousness and are full of sin and transgression in all our life. We do not fully believe thy Word nor follow thy holy commandments. Remember thy goodness, we beseech thee, and for thy Name's sake be gracious unto us, and forgive us our iniquity which, alas, is great.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 103:10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Psalm 103:11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Psalm 103:12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 247

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing
We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 303

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

Sermon Text

Luke 19:28-45

Sermon

THE ARRIVAL OF THE WEeping KING

*Hymn of Response # 309

*“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”***THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING**

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Sunday School.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church following the morning worship service. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.

June 19-25. The 90th General Assembly of the OPC denomination will be held in Seattle, Washington. The General Assembly is the governing body of the whole church and the highest court of appeal in judicial matters. You can read a daily report at opc.org. Please be in prayer for these meetings.

Sunday, June 23:

- There will be no Sunday School class.
- Rev. Nathaniel Vroom, Associate Pastor of First OPC, Sunnyvale will preach. Pastor Wayne will be at General Assembly in Seattle.

There will be no Tuesday Bible study on Tuesday, June 25. The study resumes on Tuesday, July 2.