

Christ in the Church

Jesus' last word to his disciples must have seemed like a paradox to them. Having given them his final command, he said, "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Then, almost as he spoke the words, he was taken up out of their sight to be with the Father in heaven.

The paradox of Jesus' last promise was solved by the events of the day of Pentecost. Jesus had said before he spoke of returning to heaven, "And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth ... I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." Christ fulfilled his promise when the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the church.

It is in the light of Christ's promise that the true import of Pentecost is to be found. The Holy Spirit came to perpetuate the presence of Christ with his people. Pentecost, with its miraculous manifestations, is dramatic evidence of the fact that Christ dwells in the church—that he is with his people, even to the end of the world.

There is nothing vague or ethereal about Christ's presence in the church. Although it is not a physical presence, the reality of it was dramatized by the Pentecostal fire and wind and the gift of tongues. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit's presence is not in isolation from the specific word of Christ. He came in fulfillment of Christ's promise, and Christ said that when he came it would be his work to "bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said to you." True the Holy Spirit came in power, but that power was manifested in the power of the word of God in bringing men to faith in Christ.

Pentecost is the guarantee of Christ's presence in the church. But where the Holy Spirit is truly present there the word of God will be honored and its truth believed.

*But when he, the
Spirit of truth,
comes, he will
guide you into all
truth.*

John 16:13

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 # 2

“O Worship the King”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 316

“The Mighty God the Lord”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Lord God, Eternal and Almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O Lord, we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, asking you, through your grace, to relieve our distress. Remind us of your compassion, O Father of mercies. Remind us of all the benefits that are ours in Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. We also ask that you grant us daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness, which are pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 40

“God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength”

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 # 99

“My Song Forever Shall Record”

Sermon Text

Luke 21:10-19

Sermon

WINNERS

*Hymn of Response # 470

“How Vast the Benefits Divine”

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.

Saturday, Sept. 7, 12:00pm – 4:00pm. Our annual Fall church picnic takes place at Picnic Area #4 (near the concrete slide) at Codornices Park in Berkeley (1201 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708). The online potluck sign-up is

<http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/ChurchPicnic2024>.