

Looking Back

“He led them also in a straight way, that they might go to a city of habitation” (Psalm 107:7).

Looking back over the past year, it may seem to us that we have come over a complicated and confused path. Life has seemed to wind around without any rhyme or reason. There were detours and sharp turns that slowed us down, and dead ends that forced us to retrace our steps frustrated and chagrined.

There may have been the winds of adversity and the heat of affliction. No doubt there was the dust of unrest and confusion. And there probably were bumps and bruising stones. At times we may have felt that we had lost our way in the darkness, or could find no place to stop and rest.

But all who have learned to call upon the Lord will have abundant evidence to believe and good reason to say that he led them in a straight way: a way that led them most directly to their destination. The wanderer is on his way to the Holy City, and it will be clear eventually that there never were any wasted steps. They always went by the right way.

Perhaps even now we can look back and discern something of the wisdom that has charted our course, and can say with conviction and gratitude, “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.” And in so doing, we can look ahead with a new feeling of assurance and security because the backward look has given us a new glimpse of the hand of the Lord.

*With grateful hearts the past we own;
The future, all to us unknown,
We to thy guardian care commit,
And peaceful leave before thy feet.*

It is a good thing, every so often, to stop and look back.

*Hitherto
hath the Lord
helped us.*

1 Samuel 7:12

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 # 31

“Have You Not Known, Have You Not Heard”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 535

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!”

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 # 5

“God, My King, Thy Might Confessing”

Sermon Text

Luke 23:26-32

Sermon

WEEP NOT FOR JESUS

*Hymn of Response # 580

“Lead on, O King Eternal”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 12:30pm. Potluck luncheon following the morning worship service. All are welcome.

There is no Tuesday evening Bible Study on December 31. The Tuesday Bible Study resumes on January 7.

Sunday, January 5, 2025, 10:00am. The adult Sunday School class will resume. We will be studying the book of Colossians.

Sunday, January 5, 2025. We remember the Lord's death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church. But those who are not communicant members of our Church are asked to meet with the elders of the Church before partaking of the Lord's Supper. It is required that they meet with the elders only once.

Sunday, January 5, 2025. Our quarterly offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of the hymn following The Lord's Supper.