

Confessing Our Sins

Confessing our sins means stripping ourselves bare in the presence of God. It means stepping out of ourselves long enough to see ourselves from God's point of view. It means allowing the Holy Spirit to probe the areas of our hearts that we struggle to hide from ourselves, and being honest about what we find there.

Confession is hard. So hard that only the grace of God can bring us to admit our true character. Confession is hard because it is repugnant to the image of ourselves we work so hard to cultivate. It's easier to make excuses.

The apostle John warns against denying we have sinned. It is those who deny they are sinners who are farthest from God. Jesus didn't aim his sharpest words at the prostitutes and tax collectors, those looked upon as the “real” sinners of this world. He saved them for the religiously smug, for those who thought they were better than “sinners,” but who were really greedy wolves inside.

Lust for power, greed for riches, ruthless oppression of the weak, envy, hypocrisy, deceit—these are sins of the upwardly mobile. Those who call themselves righteous will not make it into the Kingdom of God. Only those whom God calls righteous—because they have confessed their sins—will be admitted.

Instead of confessing our sins, we would rather talk about those of others. But disregarding our own sinfulness only shows that we do not have the truth. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). If we have the truth, we know that all—including ourselves—have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

It's one thing to be aware of our sin, another to do something about it. We can enjoy it. We can fret about it. Or we can confess it. Hear what the apostle says. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Which do you choose?

*Come, Let Us
Return to the
Lord.*

Hosea 6:1

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 # 297

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 5

“God, My King, Thy Might Confessing”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD’S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

O most great, most just and gracious God; thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou hast promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all that repent and believe in him. We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We have neglected and abused thy holy worship. We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors. We have not sought first thy kingdom. We have run into temptation; and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father! In thy Son is our salvation, in thy promises our hope.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 604

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

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 # 140

“O Word of God Incarnate”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 28:23-29

Sermon

WONDERFUL IN COUNSEL

*Hymn of Response # 319

“Day of Judgment! Day of Wonders!”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord’s Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Adult Sunday School class. We are studying the book of Colossians.

Today, 12:30pm. The annual meeting of the congregation and of the corporation will take place.

Today. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church immediately following the congregational meeting. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are beginning a study of the book of Deuteronomy. 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.