

Heavenly Realms

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
Ephesians 1:3

One day Paul sent a letter to Christians living in Ephesus. Paul was in prison in Rome at the time, and nobody would call a Roman prison heavenly. Ephesus, with its open idolatry, would appear equally unheavenly to a devout Christian. The whole city was once in an uproar as crowds shouted, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” (Acts 19:28).

But when Paul wrote to the Christians in Ephesus, he made a stunning claim about himself and about them. He claimed that God had blessed them with spiritual blessings in heavenly realms in Christ! It was as if Paul stuck in his prison, and believers stuck in a godless society, had actually been elevated to the throne room of Jesus.

At one time the Ephesians were strangers and aliens from heaven; they were separated from God. They did not live in heavenly realms but were citizens of the kingdom of darkness. But God in his grace wrought a wonderful change. Christ was now their King; he was in heaven at the right hand of the Father—for them! Because he was in heaven, their citizenship was in heaven. From Christ came a rich flow of spiritual blessings: peace, joy, assurance of salvation, and much more. Once they had lived in Babylon, but now their home was Zion. As the psalmist wrote, “And of Zion it shall be said, ‘This one and that one were born in her’” (Ps. 87:5). Wherever you live, if you belong to Christ, you live in a heavenly realm.

*Heaven is my
throne and the
earth is my
footstool.*

Isaiah 66:1

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 - Insert

“Power of God”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 8

“Mighty God, While Angels Bless You”

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 # 469

“How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place”

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 # 441

“Jesus Shall Reign”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 33:17-24

Sermon

BEHOLDING THE KING IN HIS BEAUTY

*Hymn of Response # 98

“Now Thank We All Our God”

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 Ephesians.

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

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying 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.

Sunday, July 6. 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, July 6. Our quarterly offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of the hymn following The Lord's Supper.