

A Kingdom of Peace

Christ's kingdom is a kingdom of peace. As he prepared to leave his disciples and return to heaven, Christ promised: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." "The kingdom of God is...peace," wrote the apostle Paul.

The peace of Christ's kingdom is not an external peace. Christ does not promise that there will always be peace about us. "In the world you will have tribulation," he tells us. "I came not to bring peace but a sword." Christ disturbs man's peace in sin. He also calls upon his followers to be disturbers of man's peaceful co-existence with sin.

The peace of the kingdom is a peace within. It is the kind of peace that Jesus himself had. It is not a peace that depends upon things being peaceful around us. It is a peace within in the midst of troubles without.

The peace of God within is the result of our being at peace with God above. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Only through the redeeming blood of Christ can the guilty sinner find forgiveness. Only in the perfect righteousness of Christ can imperfect men approach a holy God. "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission."

"I am now in my seventy-second year," wrote John Newton. "I know what the world can do and cannot do. It can neither give nor take away the peace of God which passeth all understanding; it cannot soothe the wounded conscience, nor enable us to meet death with contempt. One only can do this."

*Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin,
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.*

*And [Christ] came
and preached peace
to you who were far
off and peace to
those who were near;
for through him we
both have access in
one spirit to the
Father.*

Ephesians 2:17, 18

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor! We would like to keep in touch with you. Please use the QR code to tell us about yourself.



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 # 302

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 392

“O Day of Rest and Gladness”

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 # 510

“Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

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

Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon

YOUR COMFORTING LORD

*Hymn of Response # 197

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

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.

Friday-Saturday, September 19-20. The Fall Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Northern California and Nevada will take place at Oak Hill OPC, 14892 Peaceful Valley Road, Sonora. Please remember these meetings in prayer.

Registration is open for the 45th Annual Women's Retreat in Folsom, CA on Friday & Saturday, October 10th & 11th. Simonetta Carr will be speaking on the theme, "Questions Women Asked." Nursing infants and young ladies 12+ are welcome to join! Cost: \$50 per attendee. Please register online www.pncnopc.org/womens-retreat.