

An Everlasting Kingdom

It is the fifth century before Christ. Xerxes the Great, king of Persia, has subdued all of Asia and now prepares for the conquest of Europe. He orders a review of all of his fighting forces on the shores of the Hellespont. Throngs of people pass by the throne of Xerxes to pay homage to him and to kiss the hem of his garment.

But a look at the king himself will tell more of this scene than all the panorama spread before him. Instead of a face radiant with joy and satisfaction, the countenance of the great Xerxes is sad, his eyes are filled with tears. “Alas,” the king exclaims, “of all this vast multitude not one will be left on earth a hundred years hence.”

Such are the kings and the kingdoms of this world. Their glory fades and they pass away. Yet men look for a king and a kingdom that will *not* pass away—a kingdom the benefits of which will last forever. And in all the world’s history no such kingdom has ever been found—none save the kingdom of our God and his Christ.

Christ’s kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. His kingdom is from everlasting to everlasting. Christ, the King, is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. “Before Abraham was, I am.” “I and my Father are one,” Christ testified of himself. And more than all of this, this King has conquered death. “I am he that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore.”

Christ promises everlasting life to all the subjects of his kingdom. “I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” “I am the resurrection and the life: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

Have you entered this kingdom? Have you received the gift of its King?

*Your throne, o
God, is for ever
and ever:
the scepter of
your kingdom is
a right scepter.*

Psalms 45:6

Covenant Presbyterian Church
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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.



MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 457 *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 368 *“The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear”*

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 # 371 *“O Lord of Hosts, How Lovely”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 197 *“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”*

Sermon Text Isaiah 40:1-2

Sermon FROM CAPTIVITY TO COMFORT

*Hymn of Response # 455 *“And Can It Be That I Should Gain”*

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.