

Rejoice in the Lord

Rejoice in the Lord! Who said that? Was it some frivolous young lad surrounded by wealth and luxury at birth and tenderly handled through life? No, this was said by a man in jail. His confinement was not harsh, but it was difficult because he had traveled widely. He knew what it meant to jostle with the crowds. He understood what deep friendship meant. And now he was alone with a Roman soldier and his few friends could come and go only at the whim of the government.

Rejoice in the Lord! Who said that? It was said by a preacher who had a burning passion for Christ and had proclaimed him throughout the Roman Empire. Now he was in jail and had learned that some small-minded, so-called Christians were preaching the same gospel in order to make him envious. How could such a man rejoice in the midst of such smallness?

Rejoice in the Lord! Who said that? It was said by an apostle who had had several close brushes with death and who recovered only to continue a life of suffering. Yet he was glad to live this “living death” if Christ was honored. He loved life, but was glad to die. Why? Because his life and death were in the hands of Jesus Christ.

Rejoice in the Lord! Who said that? It was spoken by one who believed that Jesus Christ by his suffering and humiliation in leaving heaven’s glory had redeemed those whom he had loved and called by his gospel. Yes, if Jesus Christ, the “man of sorrows” could bring such joy, then Paul was right to see everything, including the sorrow and evil, in the light of Christ’s overall purpose and thus to rejoice. Is such rejoicing yours?

*Rejoice in the
Lord always:
And again I say,
Rejoice.*

Philippians 4:4

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 # 101

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 176

“Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus!”

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 # 29 *“The Lord Has Heard and Answered Prayer”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 535

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 40:12-26, pew Bible p. 600

Sermon

LIFT UP YOUR EYES

*Hymn of Response # 69

“Thy God Reigneth?”

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.

Sunday, October 26, 5:00pm. Reformation Service 2025, sponsored by Sovereign Grace Community Church (SBC) and Trinity Presbyterian Church (OPC). This year's speaker is Pastor Don Strand, pastor and elder at Christian Family Fellowship in Santa Rosa. Pastor Strand will speak on “The Inextinguishable Light: Proclaiming and Preserving the Gospel of Grace.” Location: Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1445 Technology Lane, A1, Petaluma, CA. For more information: <https://www.trinitynorthbay.org/reformation/>