

The Pure in Heart

“Create in me a clean heart, O God,” the psalmist cries, and he does so in the absolute conviction that only a pure relationship between God and himself can lead to a blessed and happy life. How else can we commune with a holy God who cannot look upon sin? Consider how in the Old Testament time only the high priest could enter, and then only once a year, into the presence of the Lord—into the holy of holies—where the glory of God shone forth between the golden cherubim that were over the mercy seat. From beginning to end the Scriptures are filled with praise of God’s holiness. The saints in heaven worship him continuously, saying, “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.” In the sight of this holy God even our most nearly perfect works are as filthy rags.

How can we obtain this blessedness if we cannot fulfill God’s demands for a clean and pure heart? Thanks be to God, who has himself provided the way to come to him, cleansed from our sins. That way is through his Son Jesus Christ, who has restored a pure relationship between God and man. “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).

We then must rest our case with him whose blood cleanses from all sin. We must fight against every sinful inclination of the heart and purify ourselves even as he is pure. Only then shall we have a blessed life, a happiness that will be perfected in heaven when we shall see him as he is, face to face.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” An unobtainable goal? Not if we put our trust in God, who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Blessed are the
pure in heart:
For they shall
see God*

Matthew 5:8

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 # 218

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 160

“Shepherd of Tender Youth”

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 # 689

“Be Still, My Soul”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 146

“Break Thou the Bread of Life”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 41:14-20, pew Bible p. 601

Sermon

THE TRANSFORMING WORM

*Hymn of Response # 162

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

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.

Today and Sunday, November 23. Thank Offering 2025-*Make Known His Deeds Among the Peoples*. Each year the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church sets a Worldwide Outreach budget for the following year which represents the denomination's commitment to missionary and educational work. Each year the denomination has a Thank Offering to help meet that budget. If you wish to designate your gift for the Thank Offering, you may simply mark your check "Thank Offering" or use the enclosed envelope.