

Looking Back

“He led them also in a straight way, that they might go to a city of habitation” (Psalm 107:7).

Looking back over the past year, it may seem to us that we have come over a complicated and confused path. Life has seemed to wind around without any rhyme or reason. There were detours and sharp turns that slowed us down, and dead ends that forced us to retrace our steps frustrated and chagrined.

There may have been the winds of adversity and the heat of affliction. No doubt there was the dust of unrest and confusion. And there probably were bumps and bruising stones. At times we may have felt that we had lost our way in the darkness, or could find no place to stop and rest.

But all who have learned to call upon the Lord will have abundant evidence to believe and good reason to say that he led them in a straight way: a way that led them most directly to their destination. The wanderer is on his way to the Holy City, and it will be clear eventually that there never were any wasted steps. They always went by the right way.

Perhaps even now we can look back and discern something of the wisdom that has charted our course, and can say with conviction and gratitude, “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.” And in so doing, we can look ahead with a new feeling of assurance and security because the backward look has given us a new glimpse of the hand of the Lord.

*With grateful hearts the past we own;
The future, all to us unknown,
We to thy guardian care commit,
And peaceful leave before thy feet.*

It is a good thing, every so often, to stop and look back.

*Hitherto
hath the Lord
helped us.*

1 Samuel 7:12

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 # 4 *“All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”*

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 200 *“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

O most great, most just and gracious God; thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou hast promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all that repent and believe in him. We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We have neglected and abused thy holy worship. We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors. We have not sought first thy kingdom. We have run into temptation; and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father! In thy Son is our salvation, in thy promises our hope.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 228 *“Saw You Never, in the Twilight”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 161 *“O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart's Desire”*

Sermon Text Isaiah 42:18-25, pew Bible p. 603

Sermon THE BLIND AND DEAF SERVANT

*Hymn of Response # 224 *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*

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, January 4. 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, January 4. Our quarterly offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of the hymn following The Lord's Supper.