

John the Baptist

John the Baptist was a minister extraordinary. In John the Baptist God spoke through the unusual. From his youth, John's home was the desert. His clothing was rough—the leathern girdle and camel's hair cloak of the ascetic. His daily fare was locusts and wild honey. Christ said of him, "What did you go out into the desert to see? ...A prophet? Yes, I tell you, more than a prophet."

For about 400 years, since the time of the Old Testament prophets, there had been no direct revelation from God. Then, as the priest Zacharias stands at the altar of incense, an angel appears to him, telling him that he and his wife will have a son who will herald the Messiah and make the Lord's people ready for him.

John occupies a unique place in the revelation of God. He appears at the end of the Old Testament period, during a dark time of political bondage and of moral and religious corruption. He stands in the profound darkness before the dawn, as God speaks again, giving him the message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

John stood at the threshold of the kingdom of Christ. Already the axe was poised at the root of the trees to cut down those that did not bear good fruit. The Messiah was approaching with his fan in his hand to separate out relentlessly the chaff from the wheat.

Instead of peace of mind, John sowed in his listeners a holy fear, so that they might repent and receive the grace of God that would appear in Jesus Christ. John had come; but he said, "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Repentance is not foreign to the gospel. One must turn away from his sins as he turns to the Son of God. Without the message of repentance the proclamation of the grace of God becomes a weak sentimentality.

*Repent, then, and turn
to God,
so that your sins may
be wiped out,
that times of
refreshing may come
from the Lord....*

Acts 3:19, 20

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

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 # 220 *“From Heaven High I Come to You”*

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 214 *“Angels, We Have Heard on High”*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God Exodus 20:1-17

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 476 *“The Light of the World Is Jesus”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 497 *“I Need Thee, Precious Jesus”*

Sermon Text Revelation 3:20, pew Bible p. 1030

Sermon CHRIST'S CALL TO COMMUNION

THE LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn of Preparation # 420 *“At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing”*

Celebrating the Supper

*Hymn of Response # 247 *“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”*

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord) # 734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today. 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.

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.