

The Light of Life

Toward the end of the tour of the Carlsbad caverns the guide turns a switch that plunges the cave into total darkness. This darkness lasts only a few moments, but during that time one can sense how awful it would be to live completely without light day after day, year in and year out Yet there are many who live in *spiritual* darkness and don't seem to mind it, but rather prefer it. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

Jesus Christ is able to give us that spiritual light. Hear him say, "I am come a light into the world, that whoever believes on me may not remain in darkness" (John 12:46).

One day our Lord gave sight to a man born blind—bringing him out of darkness into light. An even greater deliverance can be ours for Christ promises to deliver us from spiritual darkness. Trusting in Christ as the one who died on the cross to save sinners, we can say with him whose sight was restored—and with richer meaning—"One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see" (John 9:25).

Christ who is the "Rock of Ages" is the only source of spiritual light.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Do these words mean anything to us? Or do we love darkness, rather than light?

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

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 # 515 *“How Lovely Shines the Morning Star?”*

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 181 *“We Come, O Christ, to You”*

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 # 512 *“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 191 *“I Am So Glad That Our Father in Heaven”*

Sermon Text Isaiah 45:1-8, pew Bible p. 605

Sermon CYRUS: THE LORD'S ANOINTED

*Hymn of Response # 604 *“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”*

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.