

Take Hold of the Springtime

“Take hold of the springtime.” In more poetic words this is what the Lord asked the church to do in Solomon’s Song 2:10-13:

“Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time for singing of birds is come...”

Here is a call of Christ to his people, rich in imagery and with the good smell of growing things upon it. It is a voice which we cannot miss for it is the voice of spring, the voice which is sounding all around us today. The call is in the awakening of earth.

The spring was late, the cold continued long—yet it happened: new life broke through. Buds appeared, there was a swelling and the tender leaves appeared. Suddenly birds were signing, warmth came, seeds stirred, sap flowed; there was new life. Earth and sky were transformed. The change was so quiet, yet so mighty; so inexplicable, yet so real.

The Scriptures teach us that the things which are seen are types and symbols of things not seen. The works of creation often picture to us the mysteries of grace. The seasons of the year parallel the seasons within. God sends spring, the awakener, filling the earth with flowers; and this is just a dress rehearsal of gospel power in the soul. There is a glorious springtime of grace. The God of the springtime is the God of grace, whose sweet influences lift and fill the soul.

Springtime teaches us that God does not shut himself up in heaven; that he is not one who lets the earth or the soul go unrenewed. The truly great ideas or doctrines are the ones which are so urgent they can be felt before they are clearly understood. Over the whole land and in the very air today a divine voice is sounding, “Rise up, my fair one, come away.”

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.



*Awake, O sleeper,
And arise from the
dead,
And Christ will
shine on you.*

Ephesians 5:14

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

THE LORD'S DAY

March 8, 2026

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 457 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 529 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty, eternal God and Father, we confess and acknowledge unto thee that we were conceived in unrighteousness and are full of sin and transgression in all our life. We do not fully believe thy Word nor follow thy holy commandments. Remember thy goodness, we beseech thee, and for thy Name's sake be gracious unto us, and forgive us our iniquity which, alas, is great.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 103:10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Psalm 103:11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Psalm 103:12 as far as the east is from the west,
 so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 131 “Children of the Heavenly Father”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 605 “*All the Way My Savior Leads Me*”

Sermon Text Isaiah 45:14-19, pew Bible p. 606

Sermon

A GOD WHO HIDES HIMSELF

*Hymn of Response # 345 *“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”*

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord) # 734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 12:30pm. The annual meeting of the congregation and of the corporation will take place.

Today. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church immediately after the congregational meeting. 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.