

## Christian Fellowship

People, said the philosopher Schopenhauer, are like a pack of porcupines on a freezing winter night. The sub-zero temperature forces them together for warmth. But the closer they get to each other the more they jab each other. So they have to separate. Soon they become so cold that they try again to huddle together only to find that again they must separate. This is the dilemma of men without Christ. It is the dilemma of the world today. They need to get along together, but they can't.

In the midst of a world that doesn't get along with itself, God has placed a people that do get along with each other, that are drawn to each other. And the closer they are drawn together in Christ the more they like it and the more useful they become. Through the gospel of Christ, Christian fellowship becomes a reality. As John wrote, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."

Through Christ's redeeming blood and righteousness sinners are restored into the favor and fellowship of God. We can pray, "our Father." We become sons of the same heavenly Father. And if sons, then brothers. God first gives himself back to us. He then gives us back to each other as brothers in Christ.

To fellowship means to partake or to share. Through Christ we partake together of all that God is—his wisdom and power, his holiness and love. We also share one another's new life in Christ—our thoughts and feelings, our purposes and desires. "Behold how they love one another," said Tertullian of the early Christians, a persecuted minority in a hostile, pagan world.

Is our fellowship in Christ a living demonstration to the world that we love each other, that we enjoy sharing the things of Christ and are drawn close together in him? Or are we like the porcupines?

*Above all, keep  
loving one  
another  
earnestly, since  
love covers a  
multitude of sins.*

*1 Peter 4:8*

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](http://www.berkeleyopc.org)

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

**THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF**

Salutation and Call to Worship

\*Hymn of Praise # 235

*“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”*

\*Invocation

\*Hymn of Praise # 240

*“The King of Glory Comes”*

**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 # 252

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

\*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

**THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD**

\*Hymn of Preparation # 247

*“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”*

Sermon Text

Isaiah 47, pew Bible p. 607

Sermon

BABYLON'S FALL, PART 2

\*Hymn of Response # 319

*“Day of Judgment! Day of Wonders!”*

**THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING**

\*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

# 734

\*The Lord's Benediction

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**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.