

Holy, Holy, Holy

While reading through the book of Leviticus one might well burst out, “How glad I am that I do not have to keep all those laws!”

That would be an understandable reaction. The New Testament itself refers to those ordinances as a yoke that the Israelite people were unable to bear (Acts 15:10). It rejoices that the separating wall—the many ordinances and observances which cut Israel off from other peoples—has been broken down and that now all peoples may come freely to God (Ephesians-2). These ordinances acted like a corral, shutting up the people of Israel until the coming of Jesus Christ. Now that he has come, they are no longer needed and have been set aside.

These many laws, however, had a purpose. Their very number shows us that God may not be approached casually (as some people irreverently put it) as “the man upstairs.” God is a holy God. Before he could be approached by the ancient Israelites, there had to be a ceremony of cleansing or the offering of a sacrifice. Even now God is no less holy. The free access to him, of which we speak, was purchased at no less a price than the sacrifice of his only begotten son.

God is holy! That speaks, first of all, of the moral perfection of God. God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). Whoever is born of God does not commit sin (1 John 3:9).

God is holy! That also speaks to us of the incomparable majesty and awfulness of God. God dwells in light unapproachable. He is filled with majesty and glory. In the vision of Isaiah the seraphim called to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:3).

Would we approach the holy God carelessly and irreverently? True worship of God is possible only by those who can sing,

“Exalt the LORD our God:
worship at his footstool!
Holy is he!” (Psalm 99:5)

*O worship the
Lord in the
splendor of
holiness; tremble
before him, all the
earth.*

Psalms 96:9

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 # 255

“O Jesus, We Adore You”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 75

“O Father, You Are Sovereign”

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 # 51

“O Jehovah, Hear My Words”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 376

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 49:14-19, pew Bible p. 610

Sermon

NOT FORSAKEN OR FORGOTTEN

*Hymn of Response # 92

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Prayer Meeting. Church doors will open at 10:00am for gathering and sharing prayer requests. Prayer will begin at 10:15am. Children are welcome to attend. If you have questions or would like to be added to the prayer request email list, please see Jessica Verby.

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 Joshua. 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, June 7. 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.