

Rejoice

To rejoice in Christ is too often forgotten by the people of God. It is quite easy for us to lose ourselves in our own preoccupations and cares—the problems of feeding and clothing our families, the struggle for our careers, our bodily comforts. Even when our attention is turned away from ourselves we can forget the joy of the Christian life. There is so much to object to in the world—its strife, its vain illusions of a remedy, its unwillingness to receive the Christ, who is the way and the truth. Nor is the situation much better in the church, with its many failures in the proclamation of the gospel and its frequent powerlessness over evil. Turning toward ourselves, the world, or even the church, we can find so much to complain about that our vision is distorted and we no longer rejoice.

This does not mean that Christians should close their eyes to that which is evil. Evil is not simply appearance, without reality. It is a real, mighty force, which distorts and enslaves. But with our eyes wide open, acknowledging that there is evil within ourselves, in the world, and even in the church, Christians nevertheless know that the victory over evil has been won. Therefore we rejoice!

The victory has already been assured by the one who has been exalted above all principalities and powers, who has become the head of the church, his body, and who will come to show forth his power and glory. This victory towers above all that which is weak and broken. The world sighs for redemption; there will be a new heaven and a new earth. The church knows its heresy, its weakness, its schism; it will be given a white garment fitting for the bride of Christ. The Christian languishes; but in him has been placed a well of water springing up to everlasting life.

Though evil appears to triumph, the victory belongs to Christ. Though the Christian faith reveals to man his sin and the judgment of God, it is first of all a message of triumph and joy. The apostle Paul says, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.” Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory in our Lord Jesus Christ!

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.



*Rejoice in the
Lord always;
again I will say,
rejoice.*

Philippians 4:4

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 # 4 *“All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”*

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 368 *“The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear”*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God Exodus 20:1-17

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 # 157 *“None Other Lamb, None Other Name”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 140 *“O Word of God Incarnate”*

Sermon Text Isaiah 49:20-23, pew Bible p. 610

Sermon BEREAVEMENT REVERSED

THE LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn of Preparation # 429 *“Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured”*

Celebrating the Supper

*Hymn of Response # 358 *“For All the Saints”*

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. 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 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.