

Silent Service

From the plain below, the clamor of battle rises with the dust stirred up by thousands of struggling warriors. The uneven ranks surge back and forth as now the Israelites and then the Amalekites advance.

On the hill above, standing out against the sky, are three men—Moses, Aaron, and Hur—Moses' hands being held up by the two other men (Exodus 17:12). These hands hold no sword to pierce the enemy; they tremble with fatigue. Nevertheless, raised as in a benediction, they are stronger than those of the greatest man of battle. If they waver and fall, the enemy surges forward; when they are raised, Israel prevails.

This is a picture of intercession, the support that the man of prayer offers to those who are in the forefront of the battle of faith. Intercession is but one part of prayer; yet it is an indispensable part. It is a work that the saint, humble in station but rich in faith, is able to perform, though he may seem to be far behind the front lines. It is a silent service, like that of a silent submarine which does not often break the surface but which carries hidden power to defend the homeland.

This service is portrayed throughout the scriptures. Abraham intercedes for the cities of the plain. Moses intercedes for Miriam and Aaron. Christ himself, the great intercessor, prays at the right hand of the Father as a priest forever.

Intercession should not be a strange work for the Christian. It springs up out of the soul of love, expressing the unbreakable unity of the body of Christ.

"Brothers, pray for us" (1 Thessalonians 5:25).

...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all saints....

Ephesians 6:18

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 # 101 *“Come, Thou Almighty King”*

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 261 *“What Wonderful Love Is This”*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 670 *“If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 335 *“Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me”*

Sermon Text Isaiah 50:10-11, pew Bible p. 611

Sermon OBEYING THE SERVANT'S VOICE

*Hymn of Response # 501 *“Just As I Am, without One Pled”*

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.