

January 21, 2018

Covenant OPC is a family of followers of Christ who are committed to loving the Lord and loving each other. Our vision for ministry is to glorify God and to enjoy Him by embracing and advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ through faithful proclamation and personal witness of God's Word, actions of Christ-like love, caring fellowship and Christ-centered worship in southwestern Milwaukee, our surrounding communities and throughout the world.

We are a congregation in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church which has been proclaiming the good news of salvation from sin in Jesus Christ and planting churches throughout the United States and the world since 1936.

Covenant is a place of new beginnings, yet with its roots in the past. It is Presbyterian in that it is led by servant-leaders who serve Jesus Christ and His people. Covenant Presbyterian is a church that takes the Bible seriously. We desire to be a community that is formed and informed by His word.

The beliefs of the OPC are set forth in the Westminster Standards. These documents reflect the historical, scriptural teachings on the authority of the Bible, the necessity of faith and repentance for salvation, the conviction of salvation by grace alone and secured by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Because "Covenant" rests on the promise of God and the completed work of Christ, "Covenant" shows great promise for the future.

If you desire more information, or are interested in becoming a member of Covenant, please contact Pastor Frank at 414.541.3282.

To contact by e-mail or to check out our church website please use:
www.covenant-opc.org

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Welcome to

Covenant

Orthodox Presbyterian Church

*A church with its roots in the past . . .
showing great promise for the future!*

Pastor Frank Marsh

414.541.3282

www.covenant-opc.org

*Covenant
Orthodox Presbyterian Church
4895 S. Calhoun Road
New Berlin, WI 53151*

Prelude - please make the first note of the prelude your cue for quiet meditation

Scripture Reading: Psalm 31
Sermon Title: Christ's Strength through Difficult Times

Welcome: Greeting of one another

Call to Worship the Lord: *Psalm 71:14-24*

¹⁴ But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more. ¹⁵ My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge. ¹⁶ With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone. ¹⁷ O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. ¹⁸ So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come. ¹⁹ Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like you? ²⁰ You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again. ²¹ You will increase my greatness and comfort me again. ²² I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel. ²³ My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed. ²⁴ And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long, for they have been put to shame and disappointed who sought to do me hurt.

I. By faith fellowship closely with God in difficulty by asking and claiming in prayer what God promises to be to you.
verses 2-5

God's Greeting: Prayer for God's Grace and Peace to fill our lives

II. Receive God's strength by waiting on the Lord trusting in His grace in your anguish and distress.
verses 9-13

Worship Songs of Praise to God

Praise Song #69; I Will Praise Him, Still

(Blue Worship Book)

Praise Song #62; In His Presence

(Blue Worship Book)

Hymn #92; A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

(Red Trinity Hymnal)

Responsive Reading: (printed on page 3 of Order of Worship)

Isaiah 41:10, Isaiah 33:2, 5-6, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Psalm 37:23-24, 39-40 and John 10:27-30

We listen to God and speak with Him

Congregational Prayer

Hymn #676; Day by Day and with Each Passing Moment *(Red Trinity Hymnal)*

We receive God's blessing and give to bless others

Tithes and Offerings

III. Trust that into God's Sovereign care is the only, best and safest place to entrust your life.
verses 14-16 and Luke 23:44-46

God's Word Speaks To Us

Scripture Reading: **Psalm 31**

Sermon Title: **Christ's Strength through Difficult Times**

We respond in faith

Hymn #481; Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

(Red Trinity Hymnal)

Benediction

Hymn #733; Doxology

(Red Trinity Hymnal)

Praise and Prayer Requests

Praise God for the unshakeable assurance of Christ's love and strength which preserves us, sustains us and strengthens us through the difficulties of life.

Praise God that Jesus Christ was forsaken by His Father on the cross bearing our separation from the Father because of our sins so that we would never be forsaken by the Lord.

Praise God that the Lord sees us in our difficulties with Sovereign love, identifies with us in our difficulties to bless us and carry us through them.

Praise God for the wonderful celebration of Calvary's ministry for 55 years last Sunday and the fellowship together through a great dinner.

Pray for Patricia and John Tremann that the Lord will give them His strength and encouragement through their ordeals of suffering and heartache.

Pray for Annemarie Heise and Arthur that the Lord will pour His tender mercies and preserving love into their lives to enable Annemarie to endure the depletion and pain of Lyme disease. Pray that the treatments she is undergoing will continue to work progress toward her healing.

Pray for Rachel Sanders that the Lord will give her grace to endure the depletion and discouragement of Lyme disease. Pray that the Lord will uphold Rachel in His loving care.

Pray for our Annual Congregational meeting on Monday, January 29 that the Lord will be glorified by our decisions and strengthen our unity as a result of our discussions and decisions.

Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who have joined us from Calvary that they will experience encouragement and healing through the transition of the closing of Calvary and now joining together with us for worship, fellowship and service.

Pray for Jeff Simos healing of severe pain in his hip and that the Lord will continue to stay the progress of lymphoma on his body.

Pray that we will trust the Lord and entrust our lives to Him through the storms and difficulties of life.

Pray for the Lord's wisdom and vision for our elders and deacons as we set goals for building improvement and renovation for the building renovation and improvement committee of our church.

Pray that we will be a light for Christ to our neighbors and friends and to this community.

Pray for unsaved loved ones to come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray for the Lord to give President Trump, Vice President Pence, the cabinet, the Supreme Court and Congress the wisdom and humility to depend on Christ to lead our nation to follow Him.

Pray for Iunia Boyce whose brain cancer is worsening and who is entrusting herself to the Lord to carry her into His everlasting arms and eternal care.

Responsive Reading

Isaiah 41:10, Isaiah 33:2, 5-6, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Psalm 37:23-24, 39-40 and John 10:27-30

¹⁰ fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

² O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble.

⁵ The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness, ⁶ and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.

For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

²³ The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way;

²⁴ though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.

³⁹ The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

⁴⁰ The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."