

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;¹
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic² church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

¹ See Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 44; Canons of Dort, 2.4.

² "Catholic" means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples (Belgic Confession, art. 27; Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 54).

Visitors at the Lord's Supper

We are delighted you have joined us to worship the Lord today. We hope and trust that the Lord will richly bless you as we call upon His name together. At the conclusion of our service, we are celebrating the "Lord's Supper," or "communion." In 1 Corinthians 11:27-29, the apostle Paul issues a strong warning: "Whoever...eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord...Anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself." For this reason, throughout history, out of love and concern for those present in the congregation, churches have developed some kind of guidelines regarding who would be welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper.

If you wish to partake with us today, you must either 1) be a professing member, not currently under church discipline, of a fellow URCNA congregation; or 2) have received from our pastor or one of our elders, before the worship service today, specific permission to partake. A pastor or elder is available in the sanctuary foyer within a half-hour before the service to grant such permission. You may also call the church office during the week at (909) 986-9889 to contact one of them. We realize you may not have been aware of these guidelines in time to speak with one of us before the service today. Please know that we appreciate your patience with us until we have the opportunity to come to know you better as a like-minded believer, and to ensure that we share the biblical understanding of the Lord's Supper.

If it turns out that we are yet unable to commune together, please also know that we are not saying that you are not our brother or sister in the Lord, nor are we saying that you would be partaking in an "unworthy manner" or "eating and drinking judgment on yourself" if we did commune together. But given the weightiness of the apostle Paul's warning, we sense a responsibility even to err on the side of caution. Please feel free to speak with our pastor or any of our elders about these matters, as we would be happy to try and answer any questions you may have.

Ontario United Reformed Church

205 East Philadelphia Street, Ontario, CA 91761

(909) 986-9889 www.ontariourc.org

January 10, 2021 ~ 10:00 AM



We welcome each person who has gathered here today. What is most important, what we want to share with you, what gives us comfort and strength, is that even in strange times, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

If you are visiting today and would like more information about why we follow and worship Jesus, please visit www.ontariourc.org, or send us an email at pastor@ontariourc.org.

This morning, Pastor Adam begins a preaching series from select passages in 1 & 2 Peter, which, like all Scripture, is timeless. But these passages also give us some particularly relevant encouragement and instruction as we all wrestle with the weight of cultural shifts and the coronavirus pandemic and fallout.

At the end of the service, we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or communion. Please read the guidelines printed on the back cover of the bulletin regarding those who wish to partake with us; thank you for respecting these guidelines.

Tune to 88.3 FM if you would like to participate in the service this morning from the parking lot in your car.

~ 10:00am Service ~

Call to Worship

*Votum

*God's Greeting

*The Holy Law

***Song of Praise & Confession - Psalm 71**

The Holy Gospel

Forgiveness of Sins

Song of Thanksgiving & Supplication-

"Be Thou My Vision"

Pastoral Prayer

***Song of Preparation- Psalm 119G**

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:1-9

Sermon: "Messages to the Exiles"

***Song of Dedication- "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"**

Lord's Supper

Offering [via the "Tithely" app on a smartphone, or on the web;
or mail a check to the church office, or drop check or
cash today in the foyer lockbox]

*Benediction

***Doxology- from "Glory Be to God the Father":**

*Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit,
God Almighty, Three in One!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to him alone.*

Preaching: Rev. Adam Kaloostian
Organist: Linda Kaan

**Indicates the congregation will stand, as able.*

Church Announcements

The elders have set a date for a congregational meeting for Sunday, February 28th (we have yet to decide whether the meeting will be in person or on Zoom, and how any voting would work). At this meeting we plan to address three matters: 1- the church Council will recommend a budget for the remainder of 2021 (for January and February we are simply continuing forward with the terms of the 2020 budget); 2- the Council will make any recommendations regarding the appointment of elders or deacons; and 3- the elders will make some announcements and pray regarding church membership and discipline matters. Thank you for your patience and prayers. We will have an agenda put together and distributed by Sunday, February 14th.

The elders also wanted to inform us that, having concluded the "Awakening Joy!" and "Why Jesus Came" preaching series from Pastor Taylor and Pastor Adam, we are returning in the new year freeing Pastor Taylor to focus his work on our beloved Spanish-language members and visitors. He's up and running with Bible studies, devotions, and pastoral care, while working with us to figure out the best way forward for the group in 2021. Pastor Adam will be preaching weekly in our morning service.

Matters for Prayer

Rev. Mitch Persaud is a church-planter in Scarborough, ON, Canada: "(1) Pray for endurance for the leadership, considering loss of one elder and one sick deacon. (2) Thank God that the congregation has stayed together in spite of the troubles. (3) Pray for those who have lost jobs, lost time in school, and those who are otherwise frustrated."

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy pow'rful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me 'til I want no more,
Feed me 'til I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,
Be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Psalm 71: 1-3, 15-22

In you, Lord, I take refuge; protect me from disgrace.
In righteousness deliver me, and rescue me in grace.
A rock of refuge be to me, my constant safe resort.
Salvation you ordained for me; you are my rock and fort.

My mouth will tell your justice, your saving deeds convey;
They number more than I can know; I'll tell them all the day.
I'll come proclaiming mighty deeds that you, Lord GOD, have wrought;
Your righteousness, and yours alone, the peoples will be taught.

O God, from youth you taught me; your deeds I still proclaim.
So now, do not forsake me, God, when I am old and gray,
Until to generations hence I tell your pow'r and might.
O God, there's none like you, your justice reaches heaven's height.

You made me see much evil, yet you will quicken me.
From depths of earth you raise me up, my greatness you increase.
You comfort me. With harp and lyre your praises I confess.
O Holy One of Israel, I sing your faithfulness.

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r:
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Psalm 119G

Your word remember to your needy servant
Your word which gives me constant hope, O LORD.
This is my comfort in my great affliction;
My life is granted by your holy word.

The boastful scorn and mock me without pity,
Yet from your law I do not turn aside.
When I remember all your ancient statutes,
In these, O LORD, full comfort I will find.

The wicked fill my heart with indignation
Those who your holy law refuse to own.
Your laws I make the theme of my rejoicing;
I sing them ev'rywhere I make my home.

Throughout the night your name I will remember;
Your law, O Lord, with all my heart I keep.
To me was given this abundant blessing:
Your precepts I have followed faithfully.

1 Peter 1:1-9-English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.