

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

November 22, 2020 ~ 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 preaches our next-to-last message in the "Awakening Joy" series. After King Jesus arrives- then lives, dies, is risen from the dead, and goes up into heaven- something he was doing from heaven through his followers was giving them great joy. What was it? And will Jesus continue to do this, through us, and will we find great joy in it?

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

***Song of Praise- "Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise"**

The Holy Law

Prayer of Confession (see back inside cover)

The Holy Gospel

Forgiveness of Sins

Pastoral Prayer

***Song of Preparation- "Praise the LORD God, All You Nations"**

Scripture: Acts 11:19-24, Acts 13:13-16, 38-39, 42-52,

1 Thessalonians 2:13, 17-20

Sermon: "Our Glory and Our Joy"

***Song of Dedication- "Christ for the World We Sing"**

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 "Praise the Savior Now and Ever":**

*For his favor, praise forever
unto God the Father sing;
praise the Savior, praise him ever,
Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; thro' Christ's merit
He doth us salvation bring.*

Confession of Sin: (A moment of reflective silence is kept for confessing personal sin)

Holy Spirit grant us each a true conviction leading to a true repentance. Indeed, it was our desire to serve you well this week, O God, but we have again fallen short of your righteousness in our thoughts, our intentions, our actions, and our utterances. We have responded at times without grace. We have chosen sometimes that which is unprofitable, and which leads neither to our own flourishing nor to the proclamation of your glory. Forgive us, O King, for treasons both known and unknown. Forgive us for the harms we have done this week, and for the goods we might have done but failed to do; forgive us also for the constant condition of our hearts, for the self-serving impulses, inclinations, and desires which stand us every moment in need of a Savior. O God, be merciful to us who are sinners!

Preaching: Rev. Adam Kaloostian

Pianist: Bill Boersma

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

Acts 11:19-24, Acts 13:13-16, 38-39, 42-52, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 17-20 (ESV-English Standard Version)

Acts 11:19-24

¹⁹ Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists[□] also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Acts 13:13-16, 38-39, 42-52

¹³ Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, ¹⁴ but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it." ¹⁶ So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said:

"Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen.

³⁸ Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, ³⁹ and by him everyone who believes is freed[□] from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Church Announcements

Please join us this Thursday, Thanksgiving morning, at 10:00am, as we worship the Lord together. We will give thanks to our Creator and Savior for everything he graciously gives us, and hear the final message in our "Awakening Joy" preaching series.

Every time the Christmas season comes around, we look forward to putting up a tree, giving and receiving gifts, and participating in other traditions that make this wonderful time of year so special. But sometimes the most significant aspect of the season — remembering and focusing on the coming of Jesus — grows old and familiar. For that reason, **the pastors & elders are excited to gift a devotional book to each household in our membership in order to recapture our attention on what matters most during Christmastime. The book is entitled, *Come, Let Us Adore Him* by Paul David Tripp.** The plan is for our church family to be united in heart & mind during this season as each household daily reads, discusses, and prays over the same gospel-centered meditation. So, while we might all burrow into our homes during this cold winter month, together our hearts can be warmed by the same hearth and fire, God's love for us in sending His Son, Jesus. Lastly, while this is a gift, the elders encourage those members who are willing & able to give an offering of \$12 dollars to help cover the expense (you may just tack it on to your normal general fund offering before year-end). Pick up your copy today, because the first meditation starts on December 1st.

Please consider giving a special, one-time offering for our annual URCNA "synodical askings". You can mark an envelope for "synodical askings," enclosing a check or cash, and drop it in the lockbox, or you can use Tithely- please make sure to choose the "askings" fund. For those member households who are able, will you please contribute \$18 to this offering, and for those of us who are able to give \$36, please do so, in order to make sure that we fulfill our responsibility? What is this you ask? In our URCNA churches, we "ask" each local church to contribute to the common expenses. At least once every three years, two delegates (usually one pastor and one elder) from each URCNA congregation meet in what is called a "Synod," to review doctrinal and practical matters pertaining to all of our churches in common. The work of the Synod includes anything from being updated on our supported foreign missionaries and church plants; to hearing appeals on discipline cases from the local churches; to consulting with and pursuing unity with like-minded Presbyterian and Reformed churches in the US and around the world; and many more things. Through its Missions Committee, the Synod also funds and supervises the work of our full-time URCNA Missions Coordinator, Rev. Richard Bout.

The elders have received professions of faith from **Ron & Debbie Watts**, as well as **Heather Nylander**. We look forward to their public professions soon, and Heather will be baptized in the holy name of our Triune God. Please welcome all three of them through this joyful season of their Christian lives!

From the deacons. . . Just to let everyone know, we have installed a **secure lockbox in the sanctuary foyer, if you would like to use it for cash or check offerings**. Please use the envelopes that are available on the foyer table to place your offering in the box, so you can mark which fund you are giving to (you may also write your name on the envelope if you'd like it tracked for tax purposes). We will empty the box each Sunday once our worship service and fellowship times are completed. You may also continue to give through the Tithely app on a smartphone, or use Tithely on the web, or mail checks into the church office. We thank the Lord for providing for our ministry through our offerings.

Word & Deed, the international Reformed deaconal ministry that we support, is giving a video update this year as a virtual "dinner at home." Watch the update and learn more about the Lord's work in the lives of countless people around the world. Listen to some of their partners explain what is happening in their countries & ministries during this global pandemic at: <https://youtu.be/rxgX-pWowho>

Matters for Prayer

Rev. Allen Vander Pol is a professor with MINTS International Seminary: "(1) I am mentoring some of our students overseas as they write theology courses for students where they live. I also teach some students online. Please pray that I will have the ability to guide them wisely and with clarity. (2) Some of my students overseas or their family members have had Covid-19. They have less access to medical care than we have. Pray for the Lord's gift of healing. (3) Please thank the Lord for the completion of a course on Intro. to New Testament Studies. Pray for guidance as I choose my next course topic."

Rev. Thabet Megaly is a URCNA missionary working with Muslims locally and internationally, based in St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada: "(1) Pray for the TV program to continue and that through it many would come to know the Lord. (2) We have translated the first Vol. of *Promise and Deliverance* into Arabic and it is ready to be printed. Pray that our Lord provide the funds. (3) Pathway of Peace needs help with our website and social media. Pray that God would provide helpers for us in this area."

Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise

Sing to the Lord, sing his praise, all you peoples,
New be your song as new honors you pay;
Sing of his majesty, bless him forever,
Show his salvation from day to day.

Tell of his wondrous works, tell of his glory,
Till through the nations his name is revered;
Praise and exalt him, for he is almighty;
God over all let the Lord be feared.

Vain are the heathen gods, idols and helpless;
God made the heav'ns, and his glory they tell;
Honor and majesty shine out before him,
Beauty and strength in his temple dwell.

Give unto God Most High glory and honor,
Come with your offerings and humbly draw near;
In holy beauty now worship Jehovah,
Tremble before him with godly fear.

Make all the nations know God reigns forever;
Earth is established as he did decree;
Righteous and just is the King of the nations,
Judging the people with equity.

Let heav'n and earth be glad; waves of the ocean,
Forest and field, exultation express;
For God is coming, the Judge of the nations,
Coming to judge in his righteousness.

Praise the LORD God, All You Nations **(sing twice)**

Praise the LORD God, all you nations; all you peoples, sing his praise.
For his truth endures forever, and his steadfast love is great.
He is faithful! He is faithful! Hallelujah! Praise the LORD!

⁴² As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. ⁴³ And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴ The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews^a saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

"I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 2:13, 17-20

¹³ And we also thank God constantly^a for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men^b but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

¹⁷ But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly

and with great desire to see you face to face, ¹⁸ because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. ¹⁹ For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

Christ for the World We Sing

Christ for the world we sing;
The world to Christ we bring
With loving zeal:
The poor and them that mourn,
The faint and overborne,
Sinsick and sorrow worn,
Whom Christ doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing;
The world to Christ we bring
With fervent pray'r:
The wayward and the lost,
By restless passions tossed,
Redeemed at countless cost
From dark despair.

Christ for the world we sing;
The world to Christ we bring
With one accord:
With us the work to share,
With us reproach to dare,
With us the cross to bear,
For Christ our Lord.

Christ for the world we sing;
The world to Christ we bring
With joyful song:
The newborn souls whose days,
Reclaimed from error's ways,
Inspired with hope and praise,
To Christ belong.