



Two Cities, Two Crowns (Smyrna & Philadelphia)

Last Words to the Church #4
Revelation 2:8-11 & 3:7-13

I. Chiasm: The Revealing Structure of the Revelation Letters

II. Smyrna & Philadelphia – Church strong in their weakness

III. The Tale of Two Crowns

A. Kingdom Pressure: The Thorny Crown
(The Reason of Suffering)

B. Kingdom Promise: The Crown of Life
(The End of Suffering)

When the world and the Lord God seem to conspire to make us wear a crown of thorns, we must see the unseen reality: It is a sure sign of something else being placed irremovably upon our heads—The Crown of Life!

Additional Notes:

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they

struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him.

Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. – Mark 15:16-30



Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. – James 1:12

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
of
Reno, Nevada**

October 25, 2026

Service for The Lord's Day

October 25, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

It is a serious mistake to suppose that Revelation opposes the Roman Empire solely because of its persecution of Christians. Rather Revelation advances a through-going prophetic critique of the system of Roman power. It is a critique which makes Revelation the most powerful piece of political resistance literature from the period of the early Empire. It is not simply because Rome persecutes Christians that Christians must oppose Rome. Rather it is because Christians must dissociate themselves from the evil of the Roman system that they are likely to suffer persecution... John sees that the nature of Roman power is such that, if Christians are faithful witnesses to God, then they must suffer the inevitable clash between. Rome's divine pretensions and their witness to the true God. – Richard Bauckham, The Theology of the Book of Revelation, p.38

We Gather in the Name of Jesus Christ, The First & Last

Prelude Nancy Tedford, piano

Church Family News

***Call to Worship** Is. 22:20-22 & Mt. 16:15-19 Gerry Allen

Leader: A prophecy from Isaiah concerning Jerusalem—"In that day I will summon my servant, Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I will clothe him with your robe and fasten your sash around him and hand your authority over to him. He will be a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.

People: I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Leader: An encounter between Jesus and Peter concerning the Church—"But what about you?" Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?"

People: Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Leader: Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

People: I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

We Worship Jesus Christ Who Died & Came to Life Again

***Songs of Praise** Samuel Dueñas & the CPC Praise Band
"This Is Amazing Grace" & "God with Us"

Time of Greeting / Welcoming One Another

Children's Prayer Time Katie Guerrero

Prayer of Confession, Word of Assurance & Gloria Patri

Time of Offering

Offertory Nancy Tedford

***Doxology (#731) & Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We Listen for What the Spirit Says to the Churches

Hymn of Preparation "God, in the Gospel of His Son" #141

Scripture Reading Revelation 2:8-11, 3:7-13 (p.1028)

Message: Two Cities, Two Crowns Pastor Jay Hull
(Last Words to the Church #4)

We Go Forth with Jesus Who Is Holy & True

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

***Closing Hymn** "For All the Saints" #358

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

*indicates to stand if you are able

Weekly Events

Sundays

8:00 am Men's Bible St.
9:30 am Prayer
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Fellowship

Wednesday

9:00 am Women's Bible St.
1:30 pm XL-ENT Teens
2:30 pm Kids Club
6:30 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Praise Band Prac.

Thursdays

1 pm All Church Bible St.
7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Oct 27 Session 6:30 pm	Nov 11 Veterans Day Office Closed
30 Nevada Day	13-15 Christmas Market for Mission!
31 Halloween	16 MomCo 5:30-7:30 pm
Nov 1 Congregational Meeting to elect elders and deacons	17 Admin 3:30 pm
2 Fellowship MTM 2:00 pm	21 Deacons Thanksgiving Dinner 4 pm
7 Elder/Deacon Training 8-Noon	24 Session 6:30 pm
10 Evangelism MTM 5:00 pm	26 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed
Christian Ed MTM 6:00 pm	Dec 4 Gingerbread House Assembly/ Fellowship MTM 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Worship MTM 6:00 pm	5 Volunteer Day
Deacons MTM 6:00 pm	6 Gingerbread House Dec. 2-4 pm
Mission MTM 7:00 pm	

News & Reminders

Giving Envelopes are in the Narthex

Envelope boxes can be picked up in the narthex. If you would like to still sign up, we have more available. Please let a staff member know.

New Evening Bible Study

Pastor Jay is leading a Wednesday study of the Book of Revelation in Room 110 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Christmas Child Shoebox Return

Return filled shoeboxes to the narthex on Sunday, Nov 1, 8, and 15.

Short Congregational Meeting on November 1

We'll stay after worship to elect new elders and deacons in time for an elder/deacon training on Nov. 7.

It's Time to Fall Back on November 1

Remember to move your clocks back one hour (you gain an hour of sleep). 2:00 am becomes 1:00 am.

Share a Photo of You or a Loved One Who Served in the Military

Email your photo to Cindy Duncan at cindy@covenant-reno.org by Nov. 4. She'll create a slide show we can all enjoy on Sunday, Nov. 8.

The 2026 Christmas Market for Mission! Is Almost Here

Sale is Fri, Nov. 13, 5-7 pm, Sat, 9-4, and Sun. after worship until 1:30 pm. Drop items off on Thurs, Nov. 12, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. For other arrangements, contact a committee member below. Please include information such as suggested price, size, materials, washing instructions, etc. that would help inform our shoppers. Committee members:

Joanne Dickson, Cindy Duncan, Janet Dunlap, Marlene Hansen, Patti Hemsley, Jeanette Prosser, and Susie Rummens.

Kids Club Needs Volunteers

Can you help with sign-in and sign-out from 2:00-5:30 pm on Wednesdays? See Marti Lipovsky for details.

PRAYERS & PRAISES

For the Church

Pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee as they pray and search for a pastor to succeed Pastor Jay, when he retires.

Pray for the Choir Director Search Committee as they pray and search for a follower of Jesus who has choir conducting experience.

Prayer Requests

Nancy Tedford Healing
Sharleen Phillips Healing
An online atheist who is reading the Gospels Understanding and Salvation (submitted by Gavin Doyle)
Sunny Armstrong Special needs child facing surgery (submitted by Brent Ford)
Abby Defrates Healing (submitted by Gerry and Janet Dunlap)
Howard Coffey Healing

Bereavement

Friends and family of **Bettye Morgan** (Patti Hemsley's mother)
Friends and family of **Cathy Harper** (friend of Jim and Jeanette Prosser)

Our New Neighbors

Pray for the new neighbors who have moved in

On Active Military Tour of Duty

Noah Arias, Terran Billharz, Cody Carr, Matthew Cunningham, Westin Hart, Chase Lemon, Levi Sanchez, Gary Hogman, Maille Mathieu, Brian Zordell, Margaret Guthrie, Benjamin Guthrie, Chandler Bryant, Caleb Mize & Jacob Simpkins

Prayer Requests

Name of Person to pray for: _____

Concern or Update _____

Submitted by _____

Date _____

☐ For Church-wide prayer

☐ For Pastor/Staff Prayer

☐ Post on the Realm

Prayer submissions will be listed for 4 weeks; if an extension is desired, please request with an update. Put your request in the offering plate or in the prayer request box located on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.