

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. | www.FPFO.org | 706.866.2521 | 1 Harker Road

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD'S DAY | DECEMBER 26, 2021 | 10:45 A.M.

The Announcements

Please submit your prayer requests and/or record your attendance at worship with us:



*The Call to Worship

~ God's People Respond to His Call to Worship ~

*The Hymn of Praise No. 223 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

*The Prayer of Adoration

*The Confession of Faith The Heidelberg Catechism No. 36
Q. How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?
A. *He is our mediator and, in God's sight, he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness my sin, in which I was conceived.*

~ God Calls His People to Confess their Sins ~

The Call to Confession Ephesians 4:17-18

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

The Confession of Sin

O Lord our God, we are reminded of the divine purpose for the incarnation of Christ: that his name was called Jesus because he would save his people from their sins.

We are grieved that our condition was so sinful that it required nothing less than the death of the Son of God. We mourn over our fallen natures and our sins that proceed from it. We confess that in our flesh dwells no good thing.

We have broken your commandments in thought, word, and deed. We have committed sins of omission and commission. We have been lazy over heaven's concerns and selfish over our own. Even in our best efforts we find pride and self.

O Father, we thank you for his birth, his life, his death, his resurrection, and his ascension for sinners like us. We ask your forgiveness and pardon through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Silent Confession

~ God Assures His People of His Covenant Mercies ~

The Assurance of Pardon.....Ephesians 1:7-10

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

~ We Respond to God's Grace with Offerings of Ourselves and Our Needs ~

*The Psalm of Thanksgiving No. 16 "Preserve Me, O My God"

The musical score is written for a four-part setting in G major and 4/4 time. It features a treble clef for the upper parts and a bass clef for the lower parts. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words in italics. The score includes five numbered lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a different voice part.

1. ¹Pre - serve me, O my God; you are my ref - uge true.
2. ⁴Those seek - ing oth - er gods shall mul - ti - ply their pain;
3. ⁶The lot that fell to me is beau - ti - ful and fair;
4. ⁸I keep be - fore me still the LORD whom I have proved;
5. ¹⁰For you will not for - sake my soul un - to the grave,

²I say, "You are my Lord. I have no good a - part from you."
 their gifts of blood I of - fer not; their gods I will not name.
 • the her - i - tage in which I dwell is good be - yond com - pare.
 at my right hand he guards from ill, and I shall not be moved.
 nor will you leave your Ho - ly One to see the tomb's de - cay.

³The saints through - out the earth— in them is my de - light,
⁵O LORD, you are to me my cup and por - tion sure;
 • ⁷I praise the LORD a - bove, whose coun - sel guides a - right.
⁹My heart is there - fore glad; my tongue with joy will sing.
¹¹Life's path - way you make known, full joy of bound - less store

for ex - cel - lent are they who live as ho - ly in your sight.
 the lot that you as - sign to me you guard and keep se - cure.
 • My heart in - structs me in his love in sea - sons of the night.
 My bod - y, too, will rest se - cure in hope un - wav - er - ing.
 is found with you; at your right hand are plea - sures ev - er - more.

The Encouragement to Give.....Psalm 18:1-3

I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

The Great Prayer.....Elder David Bosshardt

***The Psalm No. 84....."O LORD of Hosts, How Lovely"**

1. ¹O LORD of hosts, how love - ly the place where - in you dwell!
 2. ³The spar - row finds a home here, the swal - low builds her nest,
 3. ⁵How blest are those you streng - then, who have a pil - grim's mind.
 4. ⁸O hear, LORD God of Ja - cob, to me an an - swer yield;
 5. ¹¹The LORD our God pro - tects us, our shield and shin - ing sun;

Your tab - er - na - cles ho - ly in pleas - ant - ness ex - cel.
 where she may lay her young near your al - tar, LORD of hosts.
 • ⁶A - midst the vale of weep - ing, fresh springs and pools they find.
⁹the face of your a - noin - ted, be - hold, O God, our shield.
 the LORD be - stows his fa - vor and hon - or to his own.

²My soul is long - ing, faint - ing, to see your courts, O LORD;
⁴How blest are those who dwell in your house, my King, my God;
 • ⁷From strength to strength ad - vanc - ing, they on their jour - ney go
¹⁰One day with - in your tem - ple ex - cels a thou - sand hence;
 No good will he de - ny those who walk in ways of truth.

my heart and flesh are sing - ing to you, O liv - ing God.
 how blest, those sing - ing prais - es to you, the liv - ing LORD.
 • 'til each ap - pears in Zi - on, where they their God be - hold.
 I'd rath - er keep God's door - way than live in sin - ners' tents.
¹²O LORD of hosts, how blest is the one who trusts in you!

The Sermon.....Rev. Ryan Biese

“The Temple” (2) | John 2:18-25 | Page 834 | Light in the Darkness No. 12

SERMON NOTES

I. **Introduction**

A. Why did a building have special significance under the Old Covenant the way no building does under the New Covenant?

B. How does John stress Jesus as the meeting place of God and Man?

II. **Main Argument**

A. Problematic Question (v. 18)

1. Encouraging: What indications are there the Jewish leadership recognizes Jesus possesses the authority to do what he just did?

2. Blindness Revealed: Why is the demand for a *sign* the wrong approach?

a. Why did Jesus observe the Passover?

b. **Application**: *The Danger of Domesticating God*

B. Sign of Authority (vv. 19-22)

1. Sign Offered (v. 19): Why does Jesus speak in a parable?

2. Sign Rejected(vv. 20-21): How is Jesus the true Temple?

a. **Application**: *The Temple Must be Destroyed*

b. **Application**: *There Will Be No Reconstruction of a Physical Temple*

3. Faith Strengthened (v. 22): How does this show the way the Spirit works?

C. Trouble of Heart (vv. 23-25)

1. Many Signs (v. 23)

2. Little Faith (v. 24)

3. Great God (v. 25): How does this demonstrate Jesus' divinity?

a. What prophecy does this fulfill?

b. **Application**: *Jesus knows what you are like and still died for you.*

III. Conclusion

~ God's People Respond in Praise ~

*The Hymn of Commitment No. 207....."Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

~ God Blesses His People ~

The Benediction

*The Response....."The Gloria Patri"

*Glory be to the Father, And to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, Is now, and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

DECEMBER 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

Nov. Expenses:	\$14,860.47	Nov. Budget: \$23,196.88
Nov. Income:	<u>\$29,516.21</u>	
Nov. Net Income:	\$14,655.74	
2021 Expenses:	\$207,486.20	YTD Budget: \$255,165.68
2021 Income:	<u>\$250,756.28</u>	
2021 Net Income:	\$43,270.08	

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 26, 2021

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MASK POLICY:

The back two rows of the middle section are reserved for people wearing masks (covering mouth and nose) for the entirety of the worship service while seated or standing there. The service is also live-streamed to the adult Sunday school room for those observing greater masking and distancing protocols.

- + Nominations for men to serve in the office of Ruling Elder will be opened during the month of January. Please be praying for the Lord to raise up additional men to serve on the Session and for Him to reveal to us clearly those whom He has called.
- + The Lord's Supper will be observed as part of morning worship on January 2, 2022. A fellowship meal will follow; please bring a dish to share.
- + There are no Midweek Activities Dec. 22-Jan. 5; Sunday School will be on break December 26-January 2. The normal activity schedule will resume Jan. 9.

Save the Date:

*February 26-27 | Rev. David Strain
FPFO Winter Conference: "Seeking Revival"*

Keep up with the church in her worship and work:

- + Sign up for text message alerts and updates by texting **FPFO** to **84576**.
- + To subscribe to the prayer list, please contact the church secretary: office@fpfo.org.
- + Contributions may be received by placing your offering in the box at the auditorium doors, mailing a check to the church office, or online: [FPFO.org/give](https://www.fpfo.org/give).

The Gospel According to

Mark

dramatic reading

FPC Chattanooga | 7:00 p.m. January 8 | 554 McCallie Ave.
Benefitting Metanoia Prison Ministries

Children are always welcome in worship, but a nursery is also available for children 3 and under.

Nursery Dec 26: Julia Porter

Nursery Jan. 2: Beth Rowan