

# First Presbyterian Church

Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia

Evening Worship in Word & Sacrament

The Lord's Day | July 18, 2021 | 6 o'clock

[www.fpfo.org](http://www.fpfo.org) | 706.866.2521

## THE SESSION

Ryan Biese, Moderator  
Herman McConathy, Clerk  
David Bosshardt  
Wil Davis

## THE DIACONATE

Bob Keller, Chairman  
Lance Wood, Clerk

# THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 20, 2021 | 6:00 p.m.

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\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

\*THE PSALM OF PRAISE NO. TH614.....“Now Israel May Say” (Psalm 124)

\*THE INVOCATION

\*THE CONFESSION OF FAITH .....The 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; 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 catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

THE LAW OF GOD .....Galatians 5:16–21

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Heavenly Father, who gathers Your children to Yourself, we confess that we have not walked in love, as You have loved us by giving Your Son. Instead, we find ourselves walking down the paths that You have told us not to walk; and we find ourselves drawn to the very things from which we were saved.*

*We acknowledge that our hearts have entertained lust, uncleanness, and all manner of covetousness. Our lips have uttered that which is filthy, foolish and coarse, and we have lived before you with hearts of thanksgiving.*

*In Your great mercy, forgive us for the thoughts of our hearts and the actions of our lives that where we have sinned against Your word, and renew a right spirit within us. We pray in Jesus' name.*

## THE SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON .....1 John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins.

## THE HYMN SING

\*THE PSALM OF PREPARATION NO. 19 .....“The Heavens Above Declare” (p. 7)

THE SCRIPTURE READING: .....Ecclesiastes 9

THE SERMON .....“Unpredictable and Unreliable”

### I. **Introduction**

### II. **Main Argument**

#### A. **Life is Frustrating (vv. 1-6)**

1. What is Solomon's Thesis or Conclusion (v. 1)?

a. What does Solomon mean by people's deeds are *in the hand of God*?

- b. **Application**: How does this highlight the need for special revelation and not just knowledge of God based on what we can observe about Him in nature?

2. Revelation Needed (v. 2)

- a. What is the vital question that is implied here?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Why does Solomon say it is impossible to know whether God loves you or hates you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. What is the “event” Solomon is referring to here?

3. Reality is Frustrating (v. 3) Why do we think the way things turn out is wrong?

4. Love Life Anyway (vv. 4-6)

- a. How does Solomon keep us from thinking he is despairing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. If everything Solomon has observed is true, why is death *not* to be preferred to a frustrating life?

c. **Application**: What is Solomon's counsel here?

## B. Find Some Joy (vv. 7-10)

1. Merry Heart (v. 7): What is the will of God here?
2. Take Care of Yourself (v. 8)
3. Sources of Joy (vv. 9-10): What are two sources of joy Solomon commends to us here?

## C. Life is Surprising (vv. 11-12)

1. Expectations (v. 11): What does Solomon assert should not surprise us?
2. Death is Unexpected (v. 12)
  - a. Wisdom *should* teach people to prepare for death, so why don't people prepare for death?
  - b. **Application**: How should we respond to frustrations in the world?

## D. Wisdom is Frustrating (vv. 13-18)... but it's worth having

1. Wisdom Forgotten (vv. 13-16): Instead of being a morality tale about forgetfulness and gratitude, what is the point of this parable?
  
2. Wisdom Ignored (vv 17-18)
  - a. In what sense is wisdom at a disadvantage?
  
  - b. How is the word *sinner* used here?

**III. Conclusion**: How can you know God loves you?

\*THE HYMN OF APPROACH NO. TH246 .....“Man of Sorrows! What a Name”

WE COMMUNE WITH CHRIST BY FAITH

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*\*please hold the elements until all have been served so we may partake together\**

*gluten free bread is available in the cups | white grape juice is available for those who cannot consume any alcohol*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*THE PSALM OF THANKSGIVING NO. 117 .....“Praise Jehovah All Ye Nations (p. 8)

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE RESPONSE.....“The Doxology”

Praise God , from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host!

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## The Heavens Above Declare

1. The heav'ns a - bove de - clare the glo - ry of our God; and  
 2. <sup>2</sup>No lan - guage do they use, nor an - y spo - ken word; they  
 3. God set a tent in heav'n. a dwell - ing for the sun. <sup>5</sup>which,  
 4. <sup>6</sup>The sun goes forth in might from heav - en's far - thest end and  
 5. <sup>7</sup>The per - fect law of God will make the soul re - vive; his

what his hands have made the skies pro - claim a - broad. <sup>2</sup>For day by  
 ut - ter not a sound and yet their voice is heard. <sup>4</sup>Through - out the  
 • like a bride - groom, leaves his wed - ding tent at dawn, and like a  
 runs its course a - bove un - til the day is spent. Its path from  
 stat - utes, sure and true, will make the sim - ple wise. <sup>8</sup>The pre - cepts

day they pour out speech, and night by night their knowl - edge teach.  
 world their voice re - sounds, their words to earth's re - mot - est bounds.  
 • strong, he - ro - ic man, goes forth with joy his race to run.  
 end to end com - plete—there's noth - ing hid - den from its heat.  
 of the LORD are right and fill the heart with great de - light.

<sup>1</sup>Praise Je - ho - vah, all ye na - tions, all ye peo - ple praise pro - claim;

<sup>2</sup>for his grace and lov - ing - kind - ness O sing prais - es to his name.

For the great - ness of his mer - cy con - stant praise to him ac - cord;

ev - er - more his truth en - dur - eth; hal - le - lu - jah, praise the Lord!