

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD'S DAY | FEBRUARY 26, 2023 | 10:45 A.M.

The Announcements

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



*The Call to Worship

*The Hymn of Praise No. 4 "All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"

*The Prayer of Adoration

*The Confession of Faith The Heidelberg Catechism No. 56

Q. What do you believe concerning *the forgiveness of sins*?

A. *I believe that God, because of Christ's satisfaction, will no longer remember any of my sins or my sinful nature which I need to struggle against all my life. Rather, by his grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ that I may never come into judgment.*

~ God Calls His People to Confess Their Sins ~

The Call to Confession Nehemiah 9:17

You are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Confession of Sin

Almighty God, who is rich in mercy to all those who call upon You; hear us as we come to You humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, and imploring Your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken Your holy laws by our deeds and by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts.

We confess before You our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness; and all our failures and shortcomings toward You and toward our fellow men.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, and of Your great goodness grant that we may hereafter serve and please You in newness of life through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Silent Confession

~ God Assures His People of His Covenant Mercies ~

The Assurance of PardonPsalm 68:19-20

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Our God is a God of salvation, and to GOD, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.

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

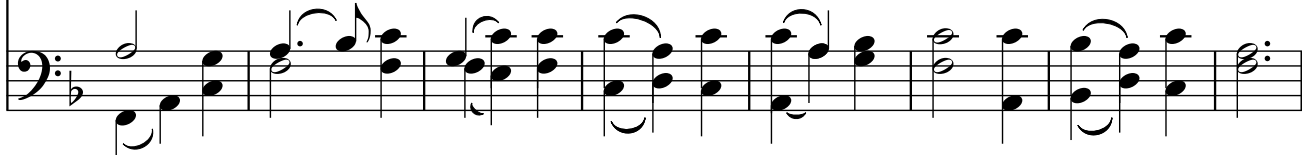
***The Psalm of Thanksgiving No. 91....."Who with God Most High"**



1. ¹Who with God Most High finds shel - ter, lives in God Al - might-y's shade.
2. God's truth is your shield and buck - ler; ⁵you will fear no ill by night,
3. ⁹You have made the LORD your ref - uge, God Most High your dwell - ing place.
4. ¹³You shall tram - ple ser - pents, li - ons, tread on all your dead - ly foes.

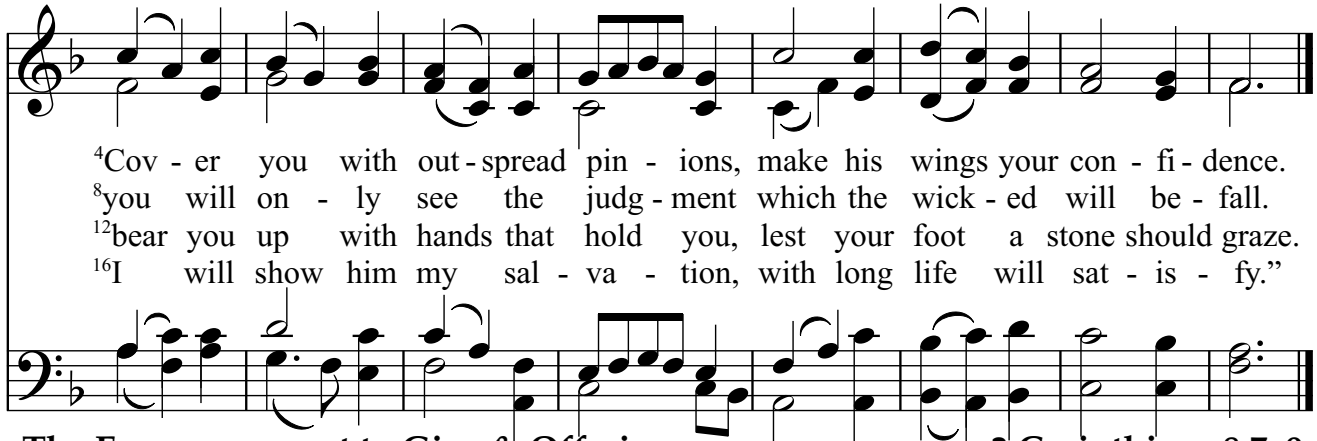


- ²I will say to God, "My God, my for - tress where my trust is stayed."
- nor the shafts in day - light fly - ing, ⁶nor dis - ease that shuns the light,
- ¹⁰No - thing e - vil shall be - fall you; near your tent no scourge you'll face.
- ¹⁴"Since he loves me, I will save him, keep him, for my name he knows;



- ³From the fowl - er's snare he'll save you, from the dead - ly pes - ti - lence;
- nor the plague that wastes at noon - day. ⁷At your side ten thou - sand fall;
- ¹¹He will an - gels charge to keep you, guard you well in all your ways,
- ¹⁵I will hon - or, I will save him; when he calls, I will re - ply.





⁴Cov - er you with out - spread pin - ions, make his wings your con - fi - dence.
⁸you will on - ly see the judg - ment which the wick - ed will be - fall.
¹²bear you up with hands that hold you, lest your foot a stone should graze.
¹⁶I will show him my sal - va - tion, with long life will sat - is - fy.”

The Encouragement to Give & Offering.....2 Corinthians 8:7-9

But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

The Great Prayer.....Elder Wil Davis

***The Psalm No. TH558“That Man Is Blest Who, Fearing God” (Psalm 1)**

The SermonPastor Ryan Biese

“Security” | John 10:27-30 | *Light in the Darkness* No. 55 | Page 843

SERMON NOTES

A. The Sheep (v. 27)

1. They Hear and Follow

- a. What is the simple, basic test that distinguishes His sheep?

- b. What is meant by *they follow me*?

c. **Application: *The Christian’s habits reflect his following Christ.***

2. Christ’s Knowledge of His Sheep

- a. What is this interest the Saviour has in His sheep?

- b. Why is Christ’s knowledge a comfort?

B. The Comfort (v. 28)

1. The Character of Eternal Life

- a. How does this expand upon the *abundant life* the Saviour has promised already to His sheep?
- b. What benefits are included in this life?
- c. Rather than protection from all disaster, what is Jesus promising?

2. The Certainty of Eternal Life

- a. Why is our hold on Christ little ground for hope?
- b. **Application: *Christ holds His people.***
- c. **Application: *Take care to belong to Christ.***

C. The Guardian (v. 29)

1. The Gift: Why does the Father giving the flock to His Son provide added assurance that none of the sheep will be lost?
2. Omnipotence: What is required in order for the sheep to perish?
 - a. How did God demonstrate His commitment to His covenant people?
 - b. Why did Jesus ask the Father to guard His sheep?

D. The Union (v. 30)

1. Essential Unity

- a. What sort of unity is in view here?
- b. How is Jesus revealing His dignity?

2. Climax: How does Jesus give the Jews more than they asked for?

*The Hymn of Commitment No. 707.....“Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”

*The Benediction

*The Response No. 735“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.

A prayer group is being formed in which requests can be submitted and information can be relayed during the week to those who want to pray for Family and Friends at FPFO. If you are interested in being a part of this or have a prayer request to submit, please email fpfowicprayer@proton.me or speak with Shay Henshall. More info will be given soon.

Communicants Class Forming in April

Determining if your child is at an age and level of understanding where she or he is ready to attend a communicants class is not always easy. Thankfully, there are some helpful signs to look for in your child that will show he or she has the spiritual maturity to comprehend the discussion.

Have you seen the following in your child?

- She or he is asking questions about the Lord’s Table and what is needed to participate;
- She or he is able to pay attention and participate in the worship service without toys, games, coloring, or other diversions for young children;
- She or he is displaying an awareness of his or her own sinfulness and asking questions about Jesus, salvation, and forgiveness.

If your child is showing those signs, that is a blessed indication that he or she is perhaps ready to join a communicants class and consider what it means to come to the Lord’s Table with the rest of the congregation.

If she or he is not showing these signs, then it’s probably a time to both wait for the next communicants class and be intentional in the way you talk about Jesus and the things of God at home with him or her to prepare for the next time the class is offered.

In the communicants class, the elders will be helping the children to reason through the Scriptures to know who Christ is to them and for them and how the Lord’s Supper confirms and assures Christ’s benefits to the faith of believers.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in the communicants class, please talk to one of the ruling elders.

The Lord's Supper:

not just a snack after a lecture

Reformed worship is an integrated whole with each of the elements of the worship service building upon one another. God calls His people to worship, and His people respond to that call. Reformed worship is a response to the truth of Who God is and what He has done in creation and redemption.

This is all the more the case when we come to the Lord's Table as we will do tonight in evening worship. Our Westminster Standards remind us that all who come to the Lord's Table should prepare themselves to meet with Christ there by faith and commune with Him and His people at the table:

What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves, of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon Him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves. (Westminster Shorter Catechism No. 97)

So there is an individual aspect to preparing to come to the Lord's Table, but coming to the Lord's Table is fundamentally a group, corporate activity. The Lord's Supper, by its very nature, is a corporate act, which is reflected in it being commonly called *Communion* or *Holy Communion*. It is not communion with Christ only, but with all His people at the Table.

This is why Reformed Christians reject the idea of "private communion" or "virtual communion" but taught that the Lord's Supper (i.e. Communion) can only take place within the context of gathered, corporate worship. Our Standards again emphasize this clearly, stating that to do otherwise is "contrary to the nature of this sacrament, and to the institution of Christ" (WCF 29.4).

In light of the nature of the Lord's Supper, it should be understood that corporate worship is the culmination of one's private preparation to commune at Christ's table. While private preparation is vital, the most important preparation for communion takes place with the people of God as we worship together.

In a worship service with the Lord's Table, each of the elements of the worship service work to prepare us to commune with Christ.

In public worship, we confess our common faith together, we confess our sinfulness together, and together we are assured by God in His word that He for-

-gives us all our sins, that He has made us worthy to commune with Him by faith. We then respond by offering to God our needs and our wealth confident that He will meet all our needs in Christ.

In the reading and preaching of the word, God speaks to His people from the Scripture as He declares afresh Who He is and what He has done for us in Christ. Preaching is not simply a lecture about God or about theology; preaching is not a moral exhortation to be better citizens and try harder in parenting. Preaching is God speaking to His people. It is the high point of the worship service and sets before us the character of the God with Whom we commune at the Table.

Likewise, the Lord's Supper is not just a snack that follows a lecture on theological topics, but a response to the preaching of the Word. As God both reveals and confronts us with His character to us in the preaching, we see how undeserving we are of any good thing in communion with Him. And yet the preaching also confronts us with the good news, *the gospel*, that God has dealt with us not according to what we deserve, but according to His grace and mercy in Christ.

The Lord's Table illustrates that reality: God serves, blesses, receives those who come to Him acknowledging their need of His grace in confession of their sins. The Table demonstrates what is declared in the words of the Assurance of Pardon: God not only forgives sinners, but welcomes and provides abundantly for them in Christ.

For this reason, it is vitally important to be participating fully in public worship, especially when we come to the Lord's Table. God uses the ordinary means of grace - the Word, Sacraments, and Prayer - to communicate the benefits of redemption to His people. There is more going on in worship that we perceive; the Spirit is at work in us and upon us in each of the elements of the worship service. We are not coming to a lecture, but divine worship where God meets with and transforms His people.

In light of how the elements of the worship service work to help us prepare to come to the Lord's Table, the Session encourages everyone to come on time and prepared to worship the living God. And Session advises anyone who arrives after the corporate confession of sin that he or she, should not partake in the Supper that Lord's Day, since that is a vital aspect of personal and corporate preparation.

While a person might be providentially hindered from being on time to worship, that providential occurrence nonetheless has prevented preparing along with the rest of the body of Christ to come to the table that Lord's Day at FPFO and thus casts doubt on whether he or she can rightly "discern the Lord's Body" that Lord's Day. Yet even if one must come late, he or she still ought to come to worship and heartily hear in the Word what is displayed at the Table and look forward to again coming to Christ's table with all His people to partake in Christ's body and blood by faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 26, 2023

- + Additional members are needed on Wednesday night to help with the elementary age children. Please let one of the elders know if you are interested in serving.
- + Next Lord's Day Elder Nathan Bowers will begin a new series in the adult Sunday school class surveying life and writings of the prince of Puritans, John Owen, and to make application for our own pilgrimage.
- + Next Lord's Day Joe Wilson will begin an new series for the Youth & Young Adult Sunday school class on the Identity and Attributes of God.
- + Sunday school will not meet on March 12 due to Daylight Savings Time change.
- + There is hope to expand the outreach at the Crossing Apartments to a weekly ministry. If you are willing or interested in serving in this way, please talk with Joseph Wilson or David Bosshardt.
- + The Lord's Supper will be observed as part of morning worship next Lord's Day. Following worship there will be a meal; please bring a dish to share.

Keep Up With the Worship & Work of the Church

- + 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 plates, mailing a check to the church office, or online: [FPFO.org/give](https://fpfo.org/give).

Announcements for the bulletin are due weekly on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. and must be emailed to office@fpfo.org.

FPFO Weekly Activities Schedule

The Lord's Day

9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
5:00 p.m. Sermon Broadcast
WAAK 94.7 FM
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
(excluding First Sundays)

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer Meeting
5:55 p.m. Covered-Dish Supper
6:45-7:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:30-7:30 p.m. *KidsQuest* (children)
6:45-7:30 p.m. Youth Class
The Gospel of John
On First, Third, and Fifth Wednesdays
there is outreach at the Crossings Apts.

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

Nursery Feb. 26: M.L. Wilson & M. Tuggle March 5: Sarah Wilson & A. Wilson