

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD'S DAY | JANUARY 15, 2023 | 10:45 A.M.

The Announcements

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



The Prelude

*The Call to Worship

*The Hymn of Praise No. 274 "Thine Be the Glory"

*The Prayer of Adoration

*The Confession of Faith The Heidelberg Catechism Nos. 50-51

Q. How does Christ's return to judge the living and the dead comfort you?

A. *In all distress and persecution, with uplifted head, I confidently await the very judge who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place and removed the whole curse from me. Christ will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but will take me and all his chosen ones to himself into the joy and glory of heaven.*

~ God Calls His People to Confess Their Sins ~

The Call to Confession Psalm 19:12-13

Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

The Confession of Sin

Almighty God, we confess we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. And yet, we need your aid to truly grieve, regret, and mourn our rebellion. Please fill us with holy fear, give us your grace to amend our lives according to your Word, and restore our souls through Jesus Christ. Make us as kind and merciful as you are. Let your forgiveness make us willing to forgive every wrong we have suffered, and to seek forgiveness for every wrong that we have done. Let our love, humility, and generosity be as abundant as our joy. And so firmly root us in the glory and mystery of the Son of God being made flesh for us, that we are empowered by your Spirit to overcome alluring seduction of the world by the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Silent Confession

Thine Be the Glory

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57

1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he
 3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with -

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won; an - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom; let the church with glad - ness,
 out thee: aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes,
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for her Lord now liv - eth,
 thro' thy death - less love: bring us safe thro' Jor - dan

REFRAIN
 where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son;
 to thy home a - bove.

end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won.

~ God Assures His People of His Covenant Mercies ~

The Assurance of Pardon.....Zephaniah 3:14-15

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

~ God Assures His People of His Covenant Mercies ~

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

***The Psalm of Thanksgiving No. TH372....."Praise Waits for Thee" (Psalm 65)**

The Encouragement to Give1 Chronicles 29:9

Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the LORD.

The Great PrayerElder David Bosshardt

***The Psalm No. 23....."The Lord's My Shepherd"**

The image shows a musical score for Psalm 23, "The Lord's My Shepherd". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is two sharps (D major) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first three lines of the lyrics, and the second system covers the last three lines. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody.

1. ¹ The LORD's my Shep - herd, lead - ing me;
2. ³ And He re - stores my soul a - gain;
3. ⁴ Though in a val - ley dark as death,
I will not be in need.
He guides the steps I take
No e - vil will I fear;

² He'll make me lie in pas - tures green;
 To walk a - long a righ - teous path,
 Your rod and staff, they com - fort me,

By qui - et wa - ters lead.
 All for His own name's sake.
 For You are al - ways near.

4. ⁵ A feast You have prepared for me
 In sight of all my foes;
 And You anoint my head with oil,
 My full cup overflows.

5. ⁶ What love and goodness all my life
 Will follow after me;
 And in the LORD's house evermore
 My dwelling place will be.

The Sermon Pastor Ryan Biese

“Subterfuge” | John 10:1 | *Light in the Darkness* No. 49 | Page 842

SERMON NOTES

I. Introduction

A. Final Public Address

B. “Figure of Speech”

II. Main Argument

A. Context

1. Connected: Why do some argue this passage is not inserted chronologically? Is this necessarily a problem?

2. Connections: What are indications this discourse is commentary on the previous chapter's events?

B. Imposters

1. Assumption: What would one ordinarily assume, at least initially, about a person in a sheep pen?
2. Rebuke
 - a. How does the Old Testament treat the shepherds of Israel?
 - b. What begins Jesus' discourse? What is his initial focus?

C. The Door

1. Legitimacy: Why do Israel's supposed shepherds have no legitimacy?
2. Flock: How do the Pharisees and other supposed shepherds of Israel in Jesus' day vie the flock?

D. Application

1. ***Jesus and the Pharisees are both shepherds, of two different sorts.***
2. ***Christ is the door.***
3. ***False religion vividly depicted.***
4. ***Distinguish between true and false religion.***

III. Conclusion

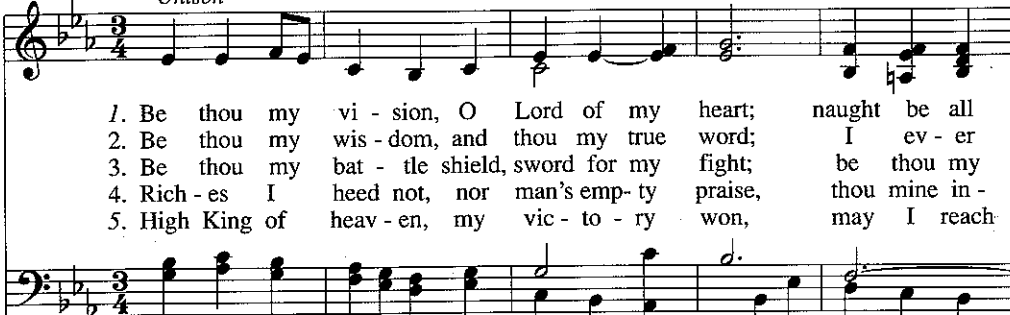
- *The Hymn of Commitment No. 642 "Be Thou My Vision"
- *The Benediction
- *The Response No. 735 "The Gloria Patri"

Be Thou My Vision

642

Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. Phil. 3:7

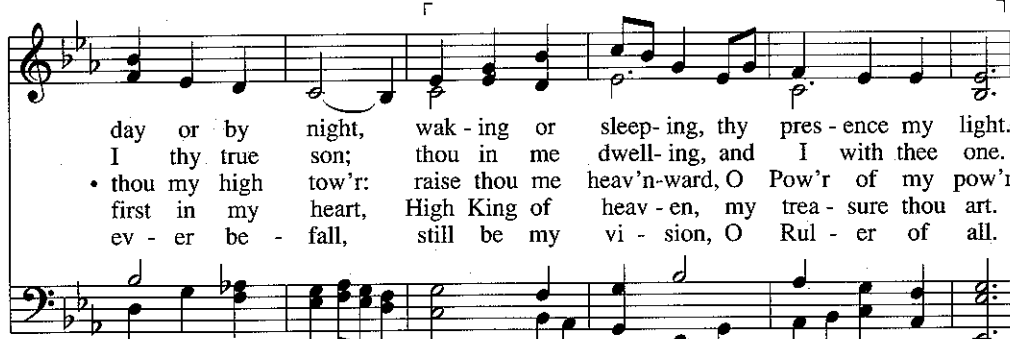
Unison



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er
 3. Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, thou mine in -
 5. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach



else to me, save that thou art— thou my best thought by
 with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Fa - ther,
 • dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light, thou my soul's shel - ter,
 her - i - tance, now and al - ways: thou and thou on - ly,
 heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what -



day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 I thy true son; thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 • thou my high tow'r: raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 first in my heart, High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Ancient Irish poem, ca. 8th cent.
 Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905
 Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912

Tune arr. © 1927 from the *Revised Church Hymnary* by permission of Oxford University Press.

SLANE 10.10.10.10.
 Traditional Irish melody
 Arr. by David Evans, 1927

Moms Encouragement Lunch

Thursday, January 19 | 12:15-2:30 p.m. | Childcare Provided
Come relax and talk. To adults. Without being asked to fix a snack.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



OUR JOY MATTERS TO JESUS

A 9-week study of Philippians to discover
a joy through every circumstance of life

Fortnightly on Saturdays | 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Contact Hannah Rowan for more details:

336-706-7371

JANUARY 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

Dec. 22 Income: \$15,261.81

Dec. 22 Expense: \$23,140.70

December Net: (\$7,878.89)

2022 Budget: \$285,793

2022 Income: \$260,639.73

2022 Expenses: \$277,161.90

2022 Net Income: (\$16,622.17)

Monthly Budget: \$20,062

2023 Budget: 240,749

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 JANUARY 15, 2023

- + The Lord's Supper will be observed as part of Evening Worship tonight.
- + The Moms Encouragement Lunch will be January 19 at 12:30 p.m. Childcare and lunch provided. Contact Sandra Taylor for the details.
- + The Session has called a Congregation Information Meeting to begin after morning worship today for the purpose of updating the congregation on the budget and other activities for 2023. The meeting is not planned to last more than 45 minutes.
- + Additional help is needed on Wednesday night to work with the elementary age children. Please let one of the elders know if you are interested in serving.
- + The monthly women's fellowship, GAG Night, will meet Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the church library.
- + A church librarian is needed. Anyone interested in helping to organize the church library and maintain the collection, please contact Ryan Biese or another elder.

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).

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. Classes & Studies
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.

Jan. 15: B. Rowan & M. Tuggle

Jan. 22: J. Porter & A. Wilson