

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD'S DAY | JANUARY 1, 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

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

*The Hymn of Praise No. 214....."Angels We Have Heard on High"

*The Prayer of Adoration and Lord's Prayer

Our Father which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.

*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.*

~ God Calls Us to Confess Our Sins ~

The Call to Confession.....John 4:23-24

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Angels We Have Heard on High

214

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.
 Luke 2:14

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Traditional French carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.ref.
 Traditional French melody
 Arr. by Edward S. Barnes, 1937

The Confession of Sin

Eternal God: You do not change. You have revealed Yourself to us in Your Word. You call us to worship You in spirit and in truth, but we confess that we often seek to worship You not as You truly reveal Yourself, but as we imagine You to be.

We too often ask You to bless what we do, rather than seeking to do what You bless. Forgive us for seeking concessions when we should be seeking guidance. Forgive us when our worship shapes You into what we want, instead of shaping us into what You want.

Help us to meet You here, that we might humble ourselves before Your unspeakable majesty and so live for You now and forever in Christ Jesus.

The Assurance of PardonColossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

*The Psalm of Thanksgiving No. 103 "As A Father Shows His Love"



5. ¹³As a fa - ther shows his love un - to all his chil - dren dear,
6. So man flour - ish - es and thrives like a grow - ing mead - ow flow'r.
7. His un - fail - ing righ - teous - ness shall to chil - dren's chil - dren be,
8. ²⁰Bless the LORD, you an - gel hosts, might - y ones who do his word,



so the LORD dis - plays his love to those trust - ing him in fear.
¹⁶When the wind blows, it is gone, and its place is known no more.
¹⁸to the ones who cov - 'nant keep and his good com - mand - ments heed.
who o - bey his voice and word; ²¹all his ser - vants, bless the LORD!



¹⁴He re - mem - bers we are dust, and our fee - ble frame he knows.
¹⁷But the stead - fast love of God, shown to those who fear his name,
¹⁹God the LORD has set his throne; in the heav - ens it shall stand,
 All his hosts who do his will, ²²all his works in all his world

¹⁵As for man, his days are like ten - der grass that quick - ly grows.
 is from all e - ter - ni - ty to e - ter - ni - ty the same.
 and his sov - 'reign king - dom rules o - ver all at his com - mand.
 bless the LORD in ev - 'ry place. Come, my soul, and bless the LORD!

The Presentation of New Members: Hayden & Natalie Schoeffler

- + Biblical Explanation
- + Vows of Membership
- + Prayer
- + Benediction

The Sacrament of Baptism: Audrey Elaine Schoeffler & Charlotte Anne Grace Biese

- + The Covenant Promises and Institution
- + The Questions to the Parents and Congregation
- + The Sign of the Covenant
- + The Prayer of Consecration

***The Baptismal Psalm No. 364 "Let Children Hear" (Psalm 78:1-7)**

The Encouragement to Give John 7:37-38

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

The Great Prayer Pastor Ryan Biese

364

Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds

O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. Ps. 78:1

1. Let chil - dren hear the might - y deeds which God per - formed of old;
 2. He bids us make his glo - ries known, his works of pow'r and grace;
 3. Our lips shall tell them to our sons, and they a - gain to theirs;
 4. Thus shall they learn in God a - lone their hope se - cure - ly stands,

which in our youn - ger years we saw, and which our fa - thers told.
 and we'll con - vey his won - ders down through ev - 'ry ris - ing race.
 that gen - er - a - tions yet un - born may teach them to their heirs.
 that they may ne'er for - get his works, but prac - tice his com - mands.

SERMON NOTES

I. **Introduction**: How has this psalm been used in the history of the Church?

II. **Main Argument**

A. The Universal King (vv. 1-2)

1. Ownership (v. 1): In what ways does the psalm reflect God's ownership over all things?

a. Why is it a comfort that even the devil is "God's devil?"

b. How does baptism express God's ownership over all things and His particular interest in the covenant people?

2. The Establisher (v. 2): What is the basis of God's ownership?

3. Application

a. ***Orderly Worldview***

b. ***God's Ownership of His People***

c. ***All the World Owes God Honor***

B. The Holy King (vv. 3-6)

1. Who is Acceptable to the King of the Universe?

a. How is it manifested that God has put eternity in the heart of man?

b. Where can eternal belonging be found?

2. Characteristics (vv. 3-4): What sort of purity does David describe? How are these attributes similar to the concerns of Jesus as he rebuked the Jewish religious leaders?
 - a. Clean hands
 - b. Pure heart
 - c. Integrity of Soul and Speech
 - d. **Application: *Those who would dwell with God must be God-like.***
 - 1) How does Baptism relate to the truth of this psalm?
 - 2) How does the Lord's Supper signify and seal what David desired?
3. Blessings (vv. 5-6)
 - a. What is David describing?
 - b. **Application: *Those who walk this way do so not out of a desire to be justified or enter into fellowship, but out of a desire to please Him.***
 - 1) ***All of life is consecrated.***
 - 2) ***The Blessed Man.***

C. The Mighty King (vv. 7-10)

1. Occasion
2. Entry into the City

III. Conclusion

~ God's People Respond to His Word ~

*The Hymn of Response No. 200....."It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

~ God Shows His Commitment to Us ~

The Communion of Christ and His People at His Table

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Consecration

The Distribution of the Elements

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

~ God's People Respond to His Grace Displayed ~

*The Psalm of Praise No. 117.....“Praise Jehovah, All Ye Nations” (page 7)

~ God Blesses His People ~

The Benediction

*The Response No. 733“The Doxology”

BAPTISM AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This morning we have the joy to witness the baptism of two of our covenant children:

Audrey Elaine Schoeffler

Charlotte Anne Grace Biese

Baptism is one of two sacraments given by Christ to His Church in the New Testament. The word *baptism* means *wash*. There were many ritual washings under the Old Testament. The Lord Jesus instated a New Testament baptism commanding His disciples to go to all the nations, make disciples, teach them to obey all His commands, and baptize them into the Name of the Triune God.

Baptism is a sign and seal of the Covenant of Grace; it both *signifies* (illustrates and portrays) the benefits of the covenant as well as *seals* (assures or confirms the genuineness of) the grace offered and promised in the Covenant of Grace: union with Christ in His death and resurrection for His people through His Holy Spirit as well as cleansing from sin.

It is the *grace* signified in baptism that saves, not the *act* of being baptized. As such, baptism does not cause a person to be born again, infuse a person with grace, wash away original sin, or guarantee or contribute to salvation.

Baptism publicly declares and marks a person out as belonging to Christ's covenant people and distinguishes him or her from the world. For all people, baptism is a call to embrace by faith the promises offered in the sacrament. Baptism is the beginning of Christian discipleship and should be improved throughout one's life by killing our sinful desires and living to righteousness and obedience more and more through faith in Christ.

Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.

Acts 2:38-39

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

200

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them.
Luke 2:9

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King";
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

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

²for 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY 1, 2023

- + Sunday school and midweek activities resume the week of January 8.
- + On Jan. 8, 2023 FPFO & MTW Missionary TE David Stoddard will be preaching in morning worship and giving an update on his work in Berlin in Sunday school.

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 box at the auditorium doors, mailing a check to the church office, or online: FPFO.org/give

Revised Midweek Activities for 2023

Beginning January 11, 2023 the adult class will transition to a time of singing, teaching, and prayer.

The teaching will center on the prayers of the Bible led by the elders of the congregation. Our hope is the largest portion of this time on Wednesday nights will be spent in prayer together in order to encourage deeper, more biblically rooted, and more intentional prayer together as a congregation.

As the Session took stock of the activities of the congregation now versus in times past, we noticed the number of opportunities for corporate prayer are significantly fewer than in years past. We believe the “prayer meeting” is the “engine room” of the local congregation. Please join us on Wednesday nights as we spend more time praying together.

Reading the Bible this Year

Speaking of the Bible, J.C. Ryle once said: “It is still the first book which fits the child’s mind when he begins to learn religion, and the last to which the old man clings as he leaves the world.” The Session encourages us all to spend regular, daily time in the Word as families and individuals. To that end, there are several Bible reading plans to assist in those efforts such as:

1. Robert Murray M’Cheyne (<https://www.mcheyne.info/mcheyne-reading-plan/>);
2. Ligonier (<https://www.ligonier.org/posts/bible-reading-plans/>);
3. Elder Bowers’ one year and two year plans (available upon request via email).

If you need encouragement to be diligent in daily Bible reading, Ryle’s booklet, “How Readest Thou? An Urgent Appeal to Search the Scriptures” is an excellent resource.

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

Nursery Jan. 1: M.L. Wilson & A. Bowers

Nursery Jan. 8: S. Wilson & C. Rowan