

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD'S DAY | MAY 22, 2022 | 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 Psalm of Praise No. TH2 "O Worship the King" (Psalm 104)

*The Prayer of Adoration

The Presentation of New Member: Philip van der Merwe

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

*The Confession of Faith The Heidelberg Catechism Nos. 61-62
Q61. Why do you say that through faith alone you are righteous?

A61. *Not because I please God by the worthiness of my faith, for only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness are my righteousness before God, and I can receive this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than by faith alone.*

Q62. Why can't our good works be our righteousness before God, or at least a part of our righteousness?

A62. *Because the righteousness which can pass God's judgment must be entirely perfect and must in every way measure up to the divine law. But even our best works in this life are all imperfect and stained with sin.*

~ God Calls His People to Confess Their Sins ~

The Call to Confession Isaiah 45:18, 22-23

For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens... "I am the LORD, and there is no other... Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.'"

The Confession of Sin

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence. For we have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, even as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, and a loving Father, to all who turn to you.

And so, we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth until now.

By your Spirit, take possession of our hearts so only the actions of our life, the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds may be guided and governed by you through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

The Silent Confession

~ God Answers His People and Speaks in the Scripture ~

The Assurance of Pardon.....Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

*The Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 647 .."How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

The Encouragement to Give 2 Corinthians 8:9

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 Nathan Bowers

*The Psalm No. 65 "O God of Our Salvation"



3. ⁵ O God of our sal - va - tion, You in Your righ-teous-ness,
4. ⁶ His strength set firm the moun-tains, Pow'r clothes Him ev-er-more,
5. ⁹ You vis - it earth with show - ers, And so en-rich the field;
6. ¹¹ You've crowned each year with good-ness, Your paths en-rich the ground.





By awe-some deeds and won - ders Your an - swer will ex - press.
 7 Who stills the peo - ples' clam - or, Makes calm the o - cean's roar.
 God's riv - er brims with wa - ter, As You pre-pare earth's yield.
 12 The des - ert pas - tures blos - som, With joy the hills re - sound.



You are the One who's trust - ed To earth's ex - trem - i - ty,
 8 The far and dis - tant peo - ples Be - hold Your signs with fear;
 10 You wa - ter its rich fur - rows, Its ridg - es smooth with rain;
 13 The fields with flocks are cov - ered, The val - leys clothed with grain.



By peo - ple who are liv - ing Be - yond the far - thest sea.
 You make the dawn and sun - set Shout loud with joy and cheer.
 You soft - en earth with show - ers, You bless its sprout - ing grain.
 They all re - joice with shout - ing, With songs their joy pro - claim.



The Sermon **Pastor Ryan Biese**

“On His Own Terms” | John 6:15-21 | *Light in the Darkness* No. 25 | p. 838

I. **Introduction**

A. Significant Miracle

B. Compact Account

II. **Main Argument**

A. Temptation (v. 15)

1. Kingship

a. What does the crowd perceive about Jesus?

b. **Application:** *The Danger of a Little Knowledge.*

c. **Application:** *We Do Not Bring the Kingdom Of God.*

d. **Application:** *The Humility of Jesus.*

2. Prayer: Why did Jesus retreat to pray?

B. Trouble (vv. 16-18)

1. On the Water (v. 16)

2. Alone (v. 17-18)

a. What does John's comment about Jesus "not having yet come" suggest?

b. **Application:** *Jesus Sends His Disciples into Difficulty*

C. Fear (v. 19)

1. Location: How have they gone?

2. Jesus: How is He coming to them?

a. Why do some suggest Jesus is not walking *on* the sea, but *by* it?

b. Why can we be certain Jesus was indeed miraculously walking on the sea?

c. What does He intend to do?

3. Terror: Why are they frightened?

D. Comfort (vv. 20-21)

1. Jesus Speaks: Why does this calm them?

a. Application: *Knowledge of Christ Comes from His Word.*

b. Application: *Christ's Presence Comforts Only His Disciples*

2. Arrival (v. 21): How does Jesus reveal more of His identity to them by their safe arrival?

III. Conclusion

~ God's People Respond in Praise ~

*The Hymn of Commitment No. 128 "God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

~ God Blesses His People ~

*The Benediction

*The Response No. 735 "The Gloria Patri"

THE GLORY OF THE BENEDICTION

By Ryan Biese

When I was younger growing up Lutheran, I knew the worship service was almost over when the congregation sang a scripture song (canticle) that began: "Thank the Lord and sing His praise..." following the communion.

On one occasion of singing this song, I remember leaning over to my dad and saying, “Yep, *thank the Lord* this is almost over!” He was less than pleased by my comment.

As a young child, I was excited about the end of the worship service because it meant an end to sitting still and the beginning of running around, being silly, and - of course - lunch!

But now as an adult and a minister in a Reformed Church, I still look forward to the end of the worship service and particularly the final element: *the Benediction*.

I. The Structure of Reformed Worship

There is a logic to a Reformed worship service. It begins with God calling the people to worship Him. We don't come into God's presence except by His command and invitation.

Following the “Call to Worship” are various elements that exalt God before us as we renew our covenant with Him and praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us.

The worship service ends with the “Benediction.”

II. The Blessing of God

The word *benediction* simply means *good word*; it is a blessing. Benedictions appear in most of the letters of the New Testament (James's Epistle, notably, concludes without one).

Typically the benediction in a worship service is taken directly from a passage of Scripture. Sometimes the object of blessing is God:

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. (Jude 24–25)

But more often the object of blessing is the people of God:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor. 13:14)

Sometimes a benediction is a compilation of Biblical texts as in the case of this one commonly used by Ligon Duncan:

Peace be to the brethren and love with faith, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ until the day breathes and the shadows flee away. Amen. (cf. Eph. 6:23, Cant. 2:17)

And occasionally benedictions might be a summary of biblical truths, ideas, and words as in the case of this one from Ralph Davis:

“Now may the God for whom you wait, lift you up out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire and set your feet upon a rock, and may He place you in the shadow of His wings until the storms of destruction pass by. Amen.”

Benedictions can be confusing. Are we blessing God? Is God blessing us? Is it a prayer? Is it a pronouncement?

III. The First Benediction

The answer to the questions above is *yes*. But also that it is more of some of those things than others. We can understand the way the benediction functions in a worship service when we consider the first one in the Scripture; not necessarily the first benediction, but the first benediction instituted for public worship.

Following instructions for the Nazirite vow, God declares His intention to bless the whole of His people:

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

"So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them." (Num. 6:22-27)

From this first benediction we get a sense for how the benediction is chiefly to function in the corporate worship service: it is God's word to His people, God's *good* word to His people of blessing.

A benediction chiefly functions not as a prayer, but as a pronouncement of God's minister about God's disposition toward His people.

IV. The Assurance of the Benediction

This is why I love getting to the benediction in the worship service. Because it is a reminder to God's people at the very start of the week - before they have accomplished a single thing that week - that in Christ, God's disposition toward them is one of blessing, grace, peace, and love.

God's benediction (blessing) is not something we earn by performing satisfactorily or being good enough over the past week. God's blessing is - like everything else in the gospel - a gift of His free grace to fill His empty people.

Just before the saints depart worship and get ready to clean up the Cheerios their kids have spilled all over the pew, race to the bathroom, and then enter a week of work, or even face what Dr Davis called the "slimy pit...mud and mire" of life in the world, God's final, closing word to His people is a reminder, a pronouncement of His intent to bless His people no matter what:

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

And that is the glory of the benediction: *he will surely do it.*

MAY 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

April Income:	\$10,515.91	Monthly Budget:	\$23,816
April Expenses:	\$15,520.58	2022 Budget:	\$285,793
April Net Income:	(\$5,004.67)		
2022 Incomes:	\$109,527.84		
2022 Expenses:	\$94,487.59		
2022 Net Income:	\$15,040.25		

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MAY 22, 2022

- + A Sunday school superintendent is needed to help with scheduling and recruiting of teachers for children and adult Christian Education at FPFO. Please see Elder Bowers if interested in serving in this capacity.
- + New directories are available for pickup. Please seek Andrew Keller. At this time the limit is one per household. If you would like an additional one, please email Tami in the church office: office@fpfo.org.

Baby shower Honouring Julia Porter

June 11, 2022 | 11:00 a.m. | Susan Wilson's home

8590 Highway 27 North, Rock Spring, GA 30739

RSVP 423.305.2432

Choices Pregnancy Center

Gift Baskets for Moms

**Bring items to equip new mothers
new care for their children.**

**Place them on the table in the
Fellowship Hall by May 31.**

Service & Adventure Week: June 22-25

Open to all youth & young adults

Contact Mr. or Mrs. Joe Wilson for details

*Gift bags are now available on the table in the
fellowship hall waiting to be filled!*

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

5:55 p.m. Covered-Dish Supper
6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:30-7:30 p.m. KidsQuest (children)
6:50-7:30 p.m. Classes & Studies
The Kings of Israel (adults)
The Life of David (young men)
Galatians (young women)

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

Nursery May 22: Rachel Wilson

Nursery May 29: Mary Lou Wilson