

The Lord's Day

August 26, 2012
Ten Fifty O'clock

“And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD his God.” (Micah 5:4)

Please switch all communications devices to silent mode. Thank you.

Welcome and Announcements

+Prelude.....Patricia Nelson
“Variations on RHOSEMYDRE” (Hymn 442)

Call to Worship..... Psalm 117

Minister: Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD! Let us worship him!

Choral Introit “Sing Unto the Lord” Charles Yannerella
Sanctuary Choir

***Ascription of Praise** (Hymn 4, verse 1) MIT FREUDEN ZART

All praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of wonders, pow'r, and love, the God of our salvation! With healing balm my soul he fills, the God who every sorrow stills. To God all praise and glory!

***Prayer of Adoration** Dr. David Jussely

***Hymn No. 7**..... DUKE STREET
“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

Private Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon..... 1 John 1:9

Hear the Good News: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Thanks be to God that he is willing to forgive our sins, but even more, to make us clean through Jesus Christ!

***Affirmation of Faith**..... The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church^{††}, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

[†]i.e., Christ remained dead for three days ^{††}i.e., the universal Christian Church

Sacrament of Baptism

James Wilson Harwell, covenant child of Andrew & Elizabeth Harwell, by Dr. Sean Michael Lucas with Ruling Elder Wyche McMullan assisting.

Prayer of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who 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.

Please complete the black Fellowship Folder and pass down the pew.

Presentation of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Offertory “Thee We Adore, O Savior” Larry Visser

(Four and Five-year olds dismissed to Children's Church)

+Doxology (Hymn 731) OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Text..... 1 John 1:5-2:2 Pew Bible p. 1021

Sermon Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
“Do You Walk in Darkness?”

Communion Anthem Tom Fettke
“The Very Thought of Thee”
Sanctuary Choir

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, I love the very thought of Thee. Jesus, the very thought of Thee with sweetness fills my breast; but sweeter far Thy face to see and in Thy presence rest. O hope of ev'ry contrite heart, O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, how kind Thou art, how good to those who seek! No voice can sing, no longing heart can frame, nor can the mem'ry find a sweeter sound than Thy blest name, O Savior of mankind. Jesus, our only joy be Thou, as Thou our prize wilt be; Jesus, be our glory now and through eternity. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, I love the very thought of Thee.

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The Lord's Supper

***Hymn No. 263**..... “Lift High the Cross” CRUCIFER

*Benediction

Choral Response

***Postlude** “Festive Trumpet Tune” David German

*Please stand if you are able.
+The ushers may seat worshippers.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

You are invited and are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper if you are a baptized Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, and a faithful member or adherent of this or some other congregation, recognized as belonging to the fellowship of Christian believers. If this does not describe you, we are glad you are here and commend to you this prayer for your use during this time of the Lord's Supper.

Lord Jesus, the burdens of my life are too great for me. I know that my heaviest burden is my own sin. My sin has made me estranged from God and it is too great for me to carry. You say to all sinners, including me, “Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.” These are the words my guilty conscience longs for. Help me, Lord Jesus, to understand and believe your loving promise that I can have rest for my soul. And even more, that I can know you and have eternal life.

Presiding Minister - Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
Assisting Elder - Dr. David Jussely

Visitors - Visitors are encouraged to pick up a copy of the First Presbyterian Church newsletter in the Narthex or at the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall.

Notes on the Service

This past Sunday, we began our fall study through the letters of John. As we noted, John wrote this first letter for two reasons: first, he wanted to help those who were following the apostles' teaching and who were trusting in Jesus the Messiah as their Savior to gain "blessed assurance." But second, he was challenging those who were straying doctrinally, morally, and socially, raising significant questions about whether they were genuine followers of Jesus.

Those questions will provide the structure for our survey of 1 John. Today, the question is, "Do you walk in darkness?" As those who claim fellowship with God, we trust that the Holy Spirit is forming us so that we reflect God's character: God is light; those who follow him will not walk in darkness, but desire to walk in the light. The problem, of course, is even when we do not desire to walk in darkness, we feel the darkness—our remaining sin—inside us. It is for sinners like us that the good news found in 1 John 1:9 becomes precious.

Our worship service reminds us that the Gospel draws our hearts out in praise to our God who loves us with an everlasting love. In addition, God, through Word, prayer, and sacraments, assures our hearts that we belong to him. Our call to worship invites us to join the nations in praise for God's steadfast love; drawn from Psalm 117, we not only hear this brief psalm, but sing it in the hymn text, "From all that dwell below the skies," to the familiar tune DUKE STREET.

We are blessed to have both sacraments in our service. We will have the sacrament of baptism, in which the Harwells will receive God's promise to be a God to them and their offspring after them and the rest of the congregation will seek to improve our baptisms. We will also have the Lord's Supper, a sacrament in which our hearts are assured that Jesus died and shed his blood for sinners like us.

But the greatest assurance comes from God's Word. We hear the good news that "if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." Such Gospel should cause us to sing with passion, "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name!" May God grant us passion and adoration for the sacred name of our Savior, Jesus Christ the righteous!

If you would like a copy of today's sermon, please call the church office (601-268-0303). The entire service, as well as just the sermon, is available on CD. You may also download the sermon only from our website at www.fpcpc.net.

MINISTRY STAFF

Ministers

Sean Michael Lucas, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Senior Minister
 Norman A. Bagby, Jr., B.A., M.Div. Minister of Visitation/Senior Adults
 C. Knox Baird, B.A., M.Div. Minister of Missions/Outreach
 David H. Jussely, B.S., M.Div., Ph.D. Minister of Teaching/Discipleship

Ministerial Assistants

Kathy C. Young, B.S., M.S. Director of Children's Ministry
 Ben Griffith Director of Student Ministry
 Wes Crider. Nursery Coordinator

Music Ministry Staff

Larry D. Smith, D.M.A. Choir Director
 Samuel Porter, D.M.A. Organist
 Loleeta Rhett, B.M.Ed. Arts and Discipleship Coordinator, Accompanist
 Laura Broughton, D.M.A. Youth Handbell Choir Director
 Kerrin Hightower, M.A. Children's Choir Director

Support Staff

Sara Sealy Office Manager/Financial Secretary
 Tracy Ross Assistant Office Manager
 Rodney Gillentine Properties Supervisor
 Don Hill Custodian

2012 CHURCH OFFICERS

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The Diaconate

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Church Treasurer Rob Tatum	Assistant Treasurers Ron Keller Drew Middleton
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Thanks to those serving today:

Duty Deacons for August: Ben Rester, Robbie Johnson, Alex Hudson, Dennis McGaughran, Grant Bennett, Wes Curry, Mark Duncan
Nursery Volunteers: Chip & Rachel Wall, Claudia Hanberry, Skip Dews, Teresa Mangum, Brad & Mandy Bailey

Ushers for August: Mark Becker, John Jennings, Andrew Harwell, Bob Satcher, Adam Parsons, Jordan Graves, Tony Claytor, Asa Henderson, Chase Young
Greeters for today:
 9:30 - Caroline Grubbs
 10:30 - Billie Sue West or Norman Bagby

Mugger for today: Edward Wallace

Mercy Support: If you are in need or aware of someone that may be in need of some assistance please contact our mercy committee or Adam Pennebaker at adam.pennebaker@pinebeltashley.com or 601-946-7133.



August 26, 2012

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
 HATTIESBURG, MS 39402

Grace Transforms