

The Lord's Day

September 9, 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..... “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”Karl Osterland

Call to Worship..... Psalm 27: 1, 4

Minister: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
People: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

Minister: Amen! Let us worship God!

Choral IntroitWilliam Billings
“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”
Sanctuary Choir

***Ascription of Praise** (Hymn 19, verse 1) PARK STREET

Thee we adore, eternal Lord! We praise thy name with one accord. Thy saints, who here thy goodness see, through all the world do worship thee, through all the world do worship thee.

***Prayer of Adoration**Ruling Elder Louis Benton

***Hymn No. 345** AUSTRIAN HYMN
“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Private Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon Psalm 32:3-5

God's Word tells us that when we hide our sin, it serves to destroy us; but when we confess our sins, God cleanses us and forgives us. Psalm 32 tells us, “While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,’ and you forgave the guilt of my sin.” Thanks be to God that he is a gracious, merciful, and forgiving God through Jesus Christ!

Affirmation of Faith The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 76: Which is the ninth commandment?

Answer: The ninth commandment is, *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

Question 77: What is required in the ninth commandment?

Answer: The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbour's good name, especially in witness-bearing.

Question 78: What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?

Answer: The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbour's good name.

Receiving of New Members: Bill & Carolyn Clemons,
Olivia Clemons, Tyler Engleman, Jacob & Lauren Gates,
Shirley Haney, Cody Laun, Chad & Kristy Nelson, Linda Watkins

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 “Poem”Leon Boellman

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

+Doxology (Hymn 73I)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.

Choral Anthem “Holy, Holy, Holy”K. Lee Scott
Sanctuary Choir

Holy! Holy! Holy! O Lord God Almighty! Heaven and earth are full of thy glory, heaven and earth are full of thy glory! Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee; holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see; only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power in love and purity. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea; holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Text 1 John 2:12-17 Pew Bible p. 1021

Sermon..... Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
“Are You Growing in Christ?”

***Hymn No. 565** “All for Jesus!” WYCLIFF

*Benediction

Choral Response

***Postlude** “Trumpet Tune in D”David Johnson

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

Presiding Minister - Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
Assisting Elder - Louis Benton

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

As we work our way through 1 John, we continue to listen to John's implied interrogative questions. We have already considered, "Do you walk in darkness?" and "Do you keep Jesus' commands?" This morning, we hear John asking us, "Are you growing in Christ?" The imagery of maturation in vv. 12-14—from childhood through young manhood to older manhood—reminds us that we too must be those who are growing in the "grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet 3:18) if we are to have Christian assurance.

Our service this morning points the way toward Christian growth and maturity by reminding us of the necessity for single-hearted devotion to Christ. Our call to worship from Psalm 27 puts words in our mouths that express our deepest aspirations—this one thing for which we long, to dwell in the Lord's house, to worship him, to inquire of him, to abide in him. Corporate worship does this for us: it enables us to enjoy our union and communion with God through Jesus by the Spirit.

And we sing this devotion by adoring our eternal Lord. Set to the familiar tune park street, our ascription of praise leads us to adore and praise the name of our God together with all the saints. We delight to be on such holy ground, which is why glorious things are spoken of Zion: because Zion is where our God is and where he receives praises from "all the world." Thanks be to God!

We also rejoice this morning to receive a number of new members into our fellowship. As they profess their faith before the Lord and the congregation and make solemn vows, may God help us all to encourage each other toward Christian maturity, toward growing up into Christ. May we each long to live "all for Jesus"—so that all our beings' powers, all our thoughts and words and doings, all our days and all our hours might be for him. After all, there is an alternative pathway—the path of worldliness. But as our closing hymn reminds us, "Worldlings prize their gems of beauty, cling to gilded toys of dust, boast of wealth and fame and pleasure; only Jesus will I trust!" May God make it so for each of us!

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

The Session

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| CLASS OF 2012 Louis Benton Keith Easterling Ken Gunnufsen Randy Henderson | CLASS OF 2013 Henry Hawes Robert T. Jackson Jr. Greg Powell David Shull | CLASS OF 2014 Joel Flynt Robert T. Jackson Sr. Wyche McMullan | CLASS OF 2015 Frank Aderholdt Charles Greer IV Arrington Rhett Bill Turpin |
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| James P. Bolton John M. Faust William C. Scruggs | Ted P. Clay John R. Jackson Jr. | James L. Duncan II Richard A. Johnson |
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The Diaconate

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| CLASS OF 2012 Grant Bennett Joe Donnell Alex Hudson Robbie Johnson | CLASS OF 2013 Charles Greer V Bert Kuyrkendall Shea McNease Doug Munn Adam Pennebaker Ben Rester Corey Tator Rob Tatum | CLASS OF 2014 Wes Curry Daniel Jussely Troy Russell Chip Wall | CLASS OF 2015 Mark Duncan Grant Dyess John Elder Ron Keller Dennis McGaughran Drew Middleton D Palermo Stuart Rich Lee Rouse |
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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 September: Corey Tator, Grant Dyess, John Elder, Chip Wall, Joe Donnell, Shea McNease

Nursery Volunteers: John & Leighanne Karnes, Doug Munn, Stuart & Jeana Rich, Andrea Jussely, Brad & Mandy Bailey

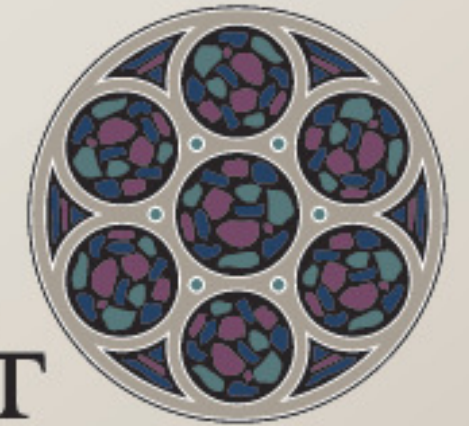
Ushers for September: Sam Lucas, Asa Henderson, Mason Starns, Wade Wicht, Glenn Mangum, Lance Mangum, Tom Tyner, Moses Kennedy, Rick Maddox

Greeters for today:
9:30 - Mike & Tina Perkins
10:30 - Billie Sue West

Duty Elder & Hospital Visitation: Louis Benton

Mugger for today: Dennis McGaughran

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.



The FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 9, 2012

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
 HATTIESBURG, MS 39402

Grace Transforms