

The Lord's Day

September 23, 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..... “Choral in E”Joseph Jongen

Call to Worship..... Psalm 100

Minister: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

People: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Minister: Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us and we are his;

People: We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Minister: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

All: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Amen! Let us worship God!

Choral IntroitDouglas E. Wagner
“Sing, O Sing, This Wonderful Morn”
Sanctuary Choir

***Ascription of Praise** (Hymn 65, verse 1) PARK STREET

Before Jehovah's awesome throne, all nations, bow with sacred joy; know that the Lord is God alone, he can create, and he destroy—he can create, and he destroy.

***Prayer of Adoration** Ruling Elder Robert Jackson, Sr.

***Hymn No. 1** OLD HUNDREDTH
“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

Corporate Confession of Sin

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin in and through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon1 John 1:7, 3:21

We confess our sins to God in the sure confidence that “whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.” Our God knows that we plead “the blood of Jesus his Son [which] cleanses us from all sin.” Hence, he assures our hearts that we are pardoned through Jesus. Thanks be to God!

Affirmation of Faith The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 82: Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

Answer: No mere man since the fall is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word, and deed.

Question 83: Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

Answer: Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

Question 84: What doth every sin deserve?

Answer: Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

Question 85: What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

Answer: To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.

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 “Andante in D” Edward Shippen Barnes

(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.

Choral Anthem“A Psalm Folksong”Edwin Penhorwood
Sanctuary Choir

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want: He makes me down to lie in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by. My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake. To walk the paths of righteousness. E'en for his own name's sake. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill, for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still. Yet I'll fear no ill thy staff comfort me still. My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows. Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me: and in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be.

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Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Text1 John 3:11-24 Pew Bible p. 1022

Sermon..... Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
“Do You Love One Another?”

***Hymn No. 359**..... DENNIS
“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

*Benediction

Choral Response

***Postlude**“Fugue in D”J. S. Bach

*Please stand if you are able.

+The ushers may seat worshippers.

Presiding Minister - Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
Assisting Elder - Robert Jackson, Sr.

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 morning, our service is structured especially around Psalm 100. Our call to worship, as well as our ascription of praise and first hymn, all are versions of this wonderful song of praise. As you come into God's presence this morning, hear the glorious *imperatives*: "Make a joyful noise! Serve the Lord! Come with singing! Know that he is God!" But also hear the glorious *indicative*: "We are his people! The Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever!"

As we rejoice in the goodness of our God, we see our own sinfulness in clear lines. We ask God for pardon from our sins, confessing the various ways that we have failed to love God and our neighbors as we ought. But we also hear God's assurance of pardon, grounded in the good word: "The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin!" Here is our hope that sets us free: Jesus' blood avails for me!

As we continue in our series through the Letters of John, we are confronted with the question, "Do you love one another?" While John has stressed the practice of righteousness as a moral test to ascertain whether we are genuine followers of Jesus, he connects this practice of righteousness to the practice of loving others. In other words, the *moral* test is related to the *social* test. And if we have questions about what love is, we hear this word: "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers" (1 John 3:16).

In response, we sing a familiar hymn, "Blest be the ties that bind." As you sing this song, listen to the words once again: "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love: the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above." Jonathan Edwards described heaven in just these terms; he said that heaven was a "world of love." This is how he put it:

"Heaven itself, the place of habitation, is a garden of pleasures, a heavenly paradise fitted in all respects for an abode of heavenly lovers, a place where they may have sweet society and perfect enjoyment of each other's love."

If heaven is going to be like this—a world of sweet society and perfect enjoy of each other's love—how should our lives together as Christ's church be? Should not our relationships now know a foretaste of our relationships there and then?

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

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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Elders Emeriti

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

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: Daniel & Lucy Jussely, Jerrod & April Gray, Drew & Whitney Middleton

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 - Norman Bagby
10:30 - Marcia Gatewood

Duty Elder & Hospital Visitation:
Robert Jackson, Sr.

Mugger for today: Ken Gunnufsen

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.



September 23, 2012

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
 HATTIESBURG, MS 39402

Grace Transforms