

The Lord's Day

April 28, 2013
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..... G. Winston Cassler
“O Bread of Life from Heaven”

Call to Worship..... Psalm 66

Minister: Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Let us worship God!

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

***Ascription of Praise** (Hymn 460, verse 1) AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

***Prayer of Adoration**Ruling Elder Grant Bennett

***Hymn No. 460** (verses 2-6) AMAZING GRACE
“Amazing Grace!”

Private Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon..... Ephesians 2:8-9

Our only hope of pardon is that God would show us grace and favor; the good news of the Gospel is that he does exactly that. God's Word says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your

own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Thanks be to God for his gracious gift of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord!

***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

George Carey Norris, covenant child of Jody & Carey Leigh Norris, by Dr. Sean Michael Lucas with Ruling Elder Joel Flynt 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 “Amazing Grace” Phillip Gehring

(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 Reading Matthew 12:15-37 Pew Bible p. 817

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon..... Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
“Responding to Jesus: The Problem of the Heart”

Communion Anthem Craig Courtney
“Celtic Laud”
Sanctuary Choir

For fruit of the vine, for harvest of wheat, for bread and for wine, the gift of Your feast, the cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise, O Lord of my living, my love and my praise. For dove in the sky, for wind in the trees, for coal in the fire, Your Spirit in me, the cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise, O Lord of my living, my love and my praise. For springtime's green earth, for morning's first light, for every new birth, for grace and for life, the cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise, O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.

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The Lord's Supper

***Hymn No. 458**..... ARLINGTON
“What Tho' I Cannot Break My Chain”

*Benediction

Choral Response

***Postlude** “Trumpet Tune” John Erickson

*Please stand if you are able.

+The ushers may seat worshipers.

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 - Grant Bennett

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

In our Scripture passage this morning, Matthew 12:15-37, we will see that the heart of the problem is the problem of the heart. And the only reason that we are not as blind as the Pharisees were is the undeserved favor, *the grace*, of God. He has given us new eyes, new ears, a new will, and a new heart so that we embrace Jesus freely as he is offered to us in the Gospel.

Surely such grace is always amazing—for it takes blind, wretched sinners and gives us eyes and ears to see and believe. That’s why we ascribe praise this morning to God by singing the familiar John Newton hymn text, “Amazing grace!” Surely the hour when grace becomes less than amazing to us is the hour we must fear for our souls. Such grace causes us to shout for joy to God, to sing the glory of his name, and to give him glorious praise.

This amazing grace of God not only turns sinners into saints; it also gives us reason to hope for our children, that they would know the same grace from the same God through the same Gospel. The sign of God’s grace to us and our children is baptism—and this morning as Jody and Carey Leigh Norris bring their son for baptism, we should be reminded that God showed us grace when we were weak children unable to save ourselves. He named us and he claimed us as his own for his purposes in our lives; we trust that he will keep his promise to be a gracious God to our children and to us.

But we also have the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper this morning that signs and seals God’s grace to those who profess faith in him. This supper serves as sustaining food for us in this wilderness: as God reminds us and assures us that his gracious benefits have come to us through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus our Savior. As we rest our hearts in him, we receive from him all that we need—justification and sanctification, faith and repentance, adoption and glorification.

Above all, our gracious God gives us new hearts to trust in him. Our closing hymn, “What tho’ I cannot break my chain,” has unfamiliar words set to a very familiar tune. The words were written by the eighteenth-century hymn writer Augustus Toplady (who also wrote “Rock of Ages”). Toplady was a supporter of George Whitefield within the Church of England, a staunch Calvinist who affirmed the sovereignty of God’s grace. In this hymn, he reminds us that though we cannot break the chain of our sin or even have faith to believe, these things come to us from our gracious God: “Thou canst o’ercome this heart of mine, thou wilt victorious prove; for everlasting strength is thine, and everlasting love.” It is a fitting hymn to close our worship and to magnify God’s amazing grace!

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

2013 CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

CLASS OF 2013 Henry Hawes Robert T. Jackson, Jr. Greg Powell David Shull	CLASS OF 2014 Louis Benton Joel Flynt Robert T. Jackson, Sr. Wyche McMullan	CLASS OF 2015 Frank Aderholdt Charles Greer, IV Arrington Rhett Bill Turpin	CLASS OF 2016 Hugh Bolton William R. Stanway Grant Bennett Matthew Boyd
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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 2013 Charles Greer, V Bert Kuyrkendall Shea McNease Doug Munn Adam Pennebaker Ben Rester Rob Tatum	CLASS OF 2014 Wes Curry Daniel Jussely Troy Russell Chip Wall	CLASS OF 2015 Grant Dyess John Elder Ron Keller Dennis McGaughran Drew Middleton D Palermo Stuart Rich Lee Rouse	CLASS OF 2016 Neal Gregg Michael Griffin George Null Chris Parsons Erin Riley Tommy Shook Chad Smith Greg Smith
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Church Treasurer
Rob Tatum

Assistant Treasurers
Ron Keller
Drew Middleton

Thanks to those serving today:

Duty Deacons for April: Rob Tatum, Chad Smith, Adam Pennebaker, D Palermo, Chip Wall, Ron Keller, Doug Munn

Nursery Volunteers: Nathan & Heather Starns, Andrew & Elizabeth Harwell, Kim Bethea, Joseph & Elizabeth Tullos

Ushers for April: Ken Gunnufsen, Robert Dews, Ralph Abraham, Morris Ames, Matthew Graves, Luke Hudson, Brad Bailey, Randy Henderson, Rand Henderson, Harrison Gunter

Greeters for today:
9:30 - Mike & Tina Perkins
10:30 - Marcia Gatewood

Duty Elder & Hospital Visitation:
Grant Bennett

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.



April 28, 2013

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
 HATTIESBURG, MS 39402

Grace Transforms