

# The Lord's Day

May 12, 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**..... “Adagio” ..... C. H. Rinck

**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 our God!

**Choral Introit** ..... M. Thomas Cousins  
“Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him”  
*Sanctuary Choir*

**\*Ascription of Praise** (Hymn 7, verses 1, 3) ..... DUKE STREET

From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise; let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, by every tongue.

Eternal are your mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends your word. Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

**\*Prayer of Adoration** ..... Ruling Elder Robert Jackson, Jr.

**\*Hymn No. 383** ..... DUNFERMLINE  
“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

## Private Confession of Sin

**Assurance of Pardon** ..... Isaiah 1:18

We know that our sins are indelibly dirty, but, in the Gospel, God promises to make us gloriously clean. God's Word says, “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” Thanks be to God that through the blood of Jesus we can be and are made clean!

**Affirmation of Faith** ..... The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 31: What is effectual calling?

**Answer: Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.**

Question 32: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

**Answer: They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.**

## Sacrament of Baptism

Naomi Elizabeth Smith, covenant child of Allison & Schaeffer Smith, by Dr. Sean Michael Lucas with Rev. Knox Baird 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** ..... “Be Thou My Vision” ..... 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.

**Choral Anthem** ..... Jane Marshall  
“Blessed is the Man”  
*Sanctuary Choir*

Blessed, blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water.

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## Prayer of Illumination

**Scripture Reading** ..... Matthew 13:1-23 ..... Pew Bible p. 818

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** ..... Dr. Sean Michael Lucas  
“Kingdom Parables: The Soils”

**\*Hymn No. 501** ..... WOODWORTH  
“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

## \*Benediction

## Choral Response

**\*Postlude** ..... “Festival Fanfare” ..... S. D. Wolfe

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

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

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

For the next several weeks, we will be working our way through Matthew 13. These parables are sometimes called “the Kingdom Parables,” because they each teach us something about God’s Kingdom, his rule and reign over his world and his people. One of the things that will help us understand this chapter better is to notice its structure:

- The Soils (1-23)
  - The Weeds (24-30, 36-43)
    - The Mustard Seed (31-32)
    - The Leaven (33)
      - Jesus and parables (34-35)
  - The Hidden Treasure (44)
  - The Pearl of Great Price (45-46)
- The Net (47-50)
- The Treasure Chest (51-53)

Paying attention to this structure and the parallels—the weeds and the net; the mustard seed and the leaven; the hidden treasure and the pearl; the soils and the treasure chest—will help us better understand what Jesus is trying to show us about his rule and reign in his world.

Today, we’ll be considering the various ways that people hear the message of the Kingdom, which accounts for the differences in their responses. At the end of it all, the heart of the problem continues to be the problem of the heart—which means that we must ask Jesus to give us a new heart so that we might respond rightly to his Word and his reign.

Our worship this morning draws upon several themes—Psalm 117, which is our call to worship and our ascription of praise; the hymn, “Almighty God, your word is cast,” which helps us to meditate on our Scripture text; and our affirmation of faith, which are the Shorter Catechism questions about effectual calling. Our prayer is that God will effectually call some today, enlightening the mind and renewing the will so that they might embrace Jesus as he is offered in the Gospel.

We also have the pleasure this morning of welcoming Naomi Smith, daughter of Schaeffer and Allison Smith, as a covenant child. It is important for us to say that Naomi was already a covenant child by virtue of belonging to the Smiths’ household; baptism serves as the sign and seal of that covenant and as the means of initiation into the visible people of God. Our prayer is that God will be Naomi’s God all the days of her life—from her first cries to her final breath, that Jesus would command her destiny for his glory.

One way that Jesus does this is by calling us effectually to come to him just as we are. We don’t clean ourselves up to come to Jesus; we don’t “make ourselves better” nor do we “make for ourselves new hearts.” Rather, we simply come—and we come because Jesus makes us willing to come. May God cause us each to come to him in faith and repentance this day to the praise of his glorious 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](http://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

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### The Diaconate

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<b>Church Treasurer</b> Rob Tatum	<b>Assistant Treasurers</b> Ron Keller Drew Middleton
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### Thanks to those serving today:

**Duty Deacons for May:** Grant Dyess, Daniel Jussely, Michael Griffin, Tommy Shook, Bert Kuyrkendall, Ben Rester

**Nursery Volunteers:** Josh & Christine Bellew, Erin & Blair Riley, Jarrod & April Gray, Linda Power-Giles

**Ushers for May:** Tom Bates, Jay Beiring, Josh Bellew, Bruce Blair, Ronnie Bullock, Andrew Jakab, Sam Lucas, Adam Parsons

**Greeters for today:**  
9:30 - Mike & Tina Perkins  
10:30 - Norman Bagby

**Duty Elder & Hospital Visitation:**  
Robert Jackson, Jr.

**Mugger for today:** Arrington Rhett

*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](mailto:adam.pennebaker@pinebeltashley.com) or 601-946-7133.*



May 12, 2013

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
 HATTIESBURG, MS 39402

*Grace Transforms*