

The Lord's Day

October 7, 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..... “Intermezzo” Healey Willan

Call to Worship..... Psalm 107:1-3

Minister: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Amen! Let us worship God!

Choral Introit J. Marty Cope
“Praise to the Lord”
Sanctuary Choir

***Ascription of Praise** (Hymn 76, verse 1) LAUDA ANIMA

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to his feet your tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, his praise should sing? Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the everlasting King.

***Prayer of Adoration**Ruling Elder Greg Powell

***Hymn No. 81**.....JERUSALEM
“O Love of God, How Strong and True”

Corporate Confession of Sin

O gracious and loving Father, your majesty is beyond full description, your glory more than our sinful eyes could withstand to see, and your holiness fills the heavens. Yet your mercy pursues us in dark and guilty places, your grace unveils our faces, and your holiness reaches down to

where we are, transforming us into instruments of your redeeming love. Forgive us, Lord, our sins, which are many. Purge the love of our favorite sins and grant us strength to stand when we should and to run when we ought. In flame a single passion for your glory in our lives, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Lamentations 3:22-25

We confess our sins knowing that God's love frees us and grants us hope. God's Word tells us, “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’ The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.” Thanks be to God that he would grant us forgiveness, but even more that he would grant us himself through Jesus Christ!

Affirmation of Faith The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 86: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer: Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Question 87: What is repentance unto life?

Answer: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

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 “I Love to Tell the Story” Emma Lou Diemer

(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 Randall Thompson
“The Last Words of David”
II Samuel XXIII 3, 4
Sanctuary Choir

He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. Alleluia. Amen.

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Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Text1 John 4:7-21 Pew Bible p. 1023

Sermon..... Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
“Do You Know God's Love?”

***Hymn No. 261** WONDROUS LOVE
“What Wondrous Love Is This”

*Benediction

Choral Response

***Postlude** “Trumpet Tune in D” John Stanley

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

Presiding Minister - Dr. Sean Michael Lucas
Assisting Elder - Greg Powell

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

Our theme this morning for our service of worship is God's love for us. I hope that you never get tired of marinating in this reality: "God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:8-10). Our Triune God—Father, Son, Spirit—has known eternal communion in love for his own self; and that Trinitarian love spilled out towards his chosen ones in his sending Jesus to die for our sins. Thanks be to God indeed!

And so, everything in our service—from our call to worship to our final hymn—will focus our hearts on God's love for us displayed in and through Jesus the Messiah. Our call to worship from Psalm 107 calls upon us to give thanks to the Lord, to live lives of utter gratitude, for his goodness is displayed in his enduring steadfast love. Our ascription of praise uses familiar words to urge us to praise this King of heaven who has worked out a glorious salvation for us motivated by his own love for his people.

Our first full hymn's tune may be unfamiliar to some of you—although the tune JERUSALEM, written by C. Hubert Parry, is beautiful and relatively easy to remember—but the hymn text is what we must hear. Written by the nineteenth century Scots Presbyterian pastor, Horatius Bonar, it is a powerful reflection on the amazing love of God: "O love of God, how strong and true, eternal and yet ever new, uncomprehended and unbought, beyond all knowledge and all thought! O love of God, how deep and great, far deeper than man's deepest hate; self-fed, self-kindled like the light, changeless, eternal, infinite!" Allow the words to stir your heart to flame with delight in God's love for you!

The choir's anthem this morning is a setting of the last words of David from 2 Samuel 23:3-4. It points us to the coming king who will rule with justice and equity, righteousness and holiness, and above all with love. No wonder we are led to sing, "Alleluia!" And in response to God's word this morning, we will ask the question again with the same wonder, "What wondrous love is this, O my soul! That caused the Lord of bliss to bear the painful curse for my soul!" May God grant you his grace to leave our worship this morning in love, praise, and wonder because God has loved you first and fully in Jesus!

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 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
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Church Treasurer

Rob Tatum

Assistant Treasurers

Ron Keller
Drew Middleton

Thanks to those serving today:

Duty Deacons for October: Stuart Rich, Drew Middleton, Troy Russell, Adam Pennebaker, Daniel Jussely, Ron Keller
Nursery Volunteers: Tony & Kristin Claytor, Craig & Amy Theiling, Ted & Aimee Cotton, Liz Frazier

Ushers for October: Matthew Caulfield, Matthew Graves, Wilson Benton, Johnson Rhett, Joseph Tullos, Keaton Love, Don Grubbs, Michael Griffin, Lawrence Ingram

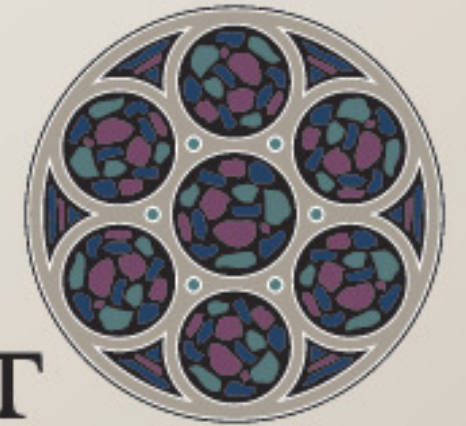
Greeters for today:

9:30 - Mike & Tina Perkins
 10:30 - Ron Keller

Duty Elder & Hospital Visitation:
 Greg Powell

Muggers for today: Ron & Joyce Keller

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

October 7, 2012

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
 HATTIESBURG, MS 39402

Grace Transforms