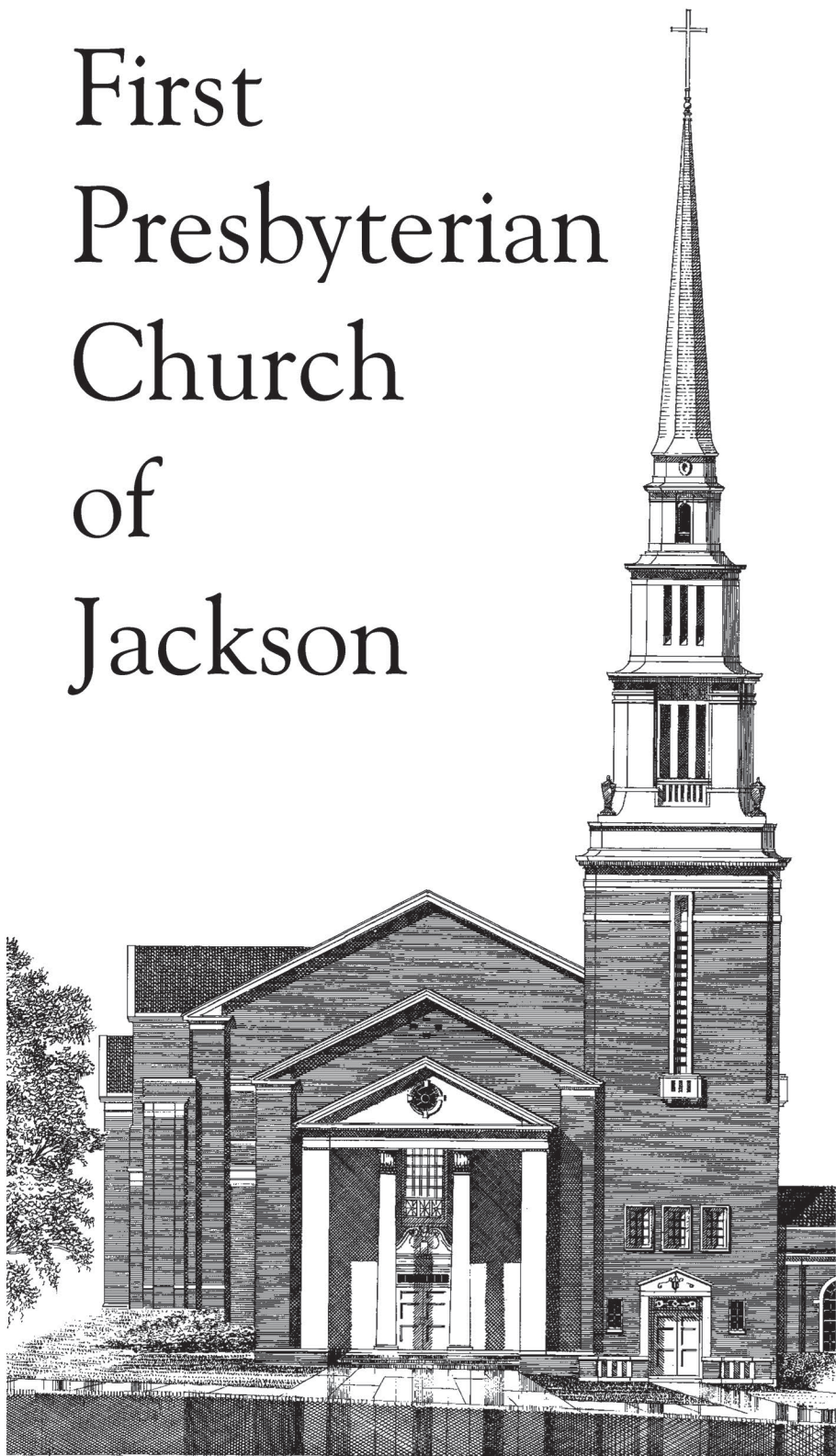


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Third Day of January, Two Thousand Twenty-One

MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain — Senior Minister

The Reverend Mr. David L. Felker — Minister of Discipleship

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Greetings and Announcements (8:25 and 10:55 a.m.)

The Prelude — “Romanza”Alexander Scriabin
Madeleine Case, Horn; William Wymond, Organ

The Introit — “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 34 (Stzs. 1, 2, 3, and 6) — “The God of Abraham Praise”

1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days and God of love.
Jehovah! Great I AM! by earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name, forever blest.
2. The God of Abraham praise, at whose supreme command
from earth I rise, and seek the joys at his right hand.
I all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame, and pow'r,
and him my only portion make, my shield and tow'r.
3. He by himself hath sworn, I on his oath depend;
I shall, on eagles' wings upborne, to heav'n ascend,
I shall behold his face, I shall his pow'r adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace forevermore.
6. The whole triumphant host gives thanks to God on high;
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!” they ever cry.
Hail Abraham's God and mine! I join the heav'nly lays;
all might and majesty are thine, and endless praise.

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Offering

The Anthem — “Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care”Carl Schalk

Lord, it belongs not to my care, whether I die or live.
To love and serve Thee is my share, and this Thy grace must give.
If life be long, I will be glad that I may long obey;
If short, yet why should I be sad to soar to endless day?
Christ leads us through no darker rooms than He went through before;
He that unto God's kingdom comes must enter by this door.
Come, Lord, when grace hath made me meet Thy blessed face to see;
For if Thy work on earth be sweet, what will Thy glory be!
My knowledge of that life is small, the eye of faith is dim;
But 'tis enough that Christ knows all, and I shall be with Him.

The Hymn No. 708 — “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

1. O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.
2. O Light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.
3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.
4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

The Pastoral Prayer and 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.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Old Testament Reading — Psalm 104:14-35

- ¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may bring forth food from the earth
- ¹⁵ and wine to gladden the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen man's heart.
- ¹⁶ The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
- ¹⁷ In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has her home in the fir trees.
- ¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.
- ¹⁹ He made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.
- ²⁰ You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the beasts of the forest creep about.
- ²¹ The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.
- ²² When the sun rises, they steal away
and lie down in their dens.
- ²³ Man goes out to his work
and to his labor until the evening.
- ²⁴ O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- ²⁵ Here is the sea, great and wide,
which teems with creatures innumerable,
living things both small and great.

²⁶ There go the ships,
 and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.
²⁷ These all look to you,
 to give them their food in due season.
²⁸ When you give it to them, they gather it up;
 when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
 when you take away their breath, they die
 and return to their dust.
³⁰ When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
 and you renew the face of the ground.
³¹ May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
 may the Lord rejoice in his works,
³² who looks on the earth and it trembles,
 who touches the mountains and they smoke!
³³ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
 I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
 for I rejoice in the Lord.
³⁵ Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
 and let the wicked be no more!
 Bless the Lord, O my soul!
 Praise the Lord!

The Reading of Holy Scripture — John 3

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

²² After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³ John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴ (for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵ Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." ²⁷ John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

³¹ He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. ³³ Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴ For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

The Sermon — The Nature of the New Birth.....Dr. Strain

The Hymn No. 709 — “Now I Belong to Jesus”

- 1. Jesus, my Lord, will love me forever, from Him no pow’r of evil can sever;
He gave His life to ransom my soul, now I belong to Him.
Now I belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to me,
not for the years of time alone, but for eternity.
- 2. Once I was lost in sin’s degradation;
Jesus came down to bring me salvation,
Lifted me up from sorrow and shame, now I belong to Him.
Now I belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to me,
not for the years of time alone, but for eternity.
- 3. Joy floods my soul for Jesus has saved me,
freed me from sin that long had enslaved me;
His precious blood He gave to redeem, now I belong to Him.
Now I belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to me,
not for the years of time alone, but for eternity.

The Benediction

The Postlude — “Forth in Thy Name We Go”.....George Dyson

WELCOME

We welcome all to this service of worship. If you are a Christian visiting with us today, we greet you in the name of our common Lord. If you are not a believer, we greet you as a friend and trust that you will sense the warmth and genuineness of our reception. We invite everyone here to participate with our congregation as we sing, pray, and give attention to God’s Word.

VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. You can text **fpcjwelcome** to 955-77 to learn more about how to get connected to the life of our church.

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. Edward A. Hartman — Minister of Mission & Outreach

The Reverend Mr. Wiley P. Lowry III — Minister of Pastoral Care

The Greetings and Announcements (5:55 p.m.)

The Prelude — “When in Our Music God Is Glorified”..... Paul L. Wright
Rae Shannon, Organist

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 16 (Stzs. 1-4) — “Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord”

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Come, let us sing unto the Lord
new songs of praise with sweet accord;
for wonders great by him are done,
his hand and arm have vict'ry won. | 3. He called to mind his truth and grace
in promise made to Israel's race;
and unto earth's remotest bound
glad tidings of salvation sound. |
| 2. The great salvation of our God
is seen through all the earth abroad;
before the heathen's wond'ring sight
he has revealed his truth and right. | 4. All lands, to God lift up your voice;
sing praise to him, with shouts rejoice;
with voice of joy and loud acclaim
let all unite and praise his name. |

The Invocation

The Hymn — “We Will Feast”

Refrain:

We will feast in the house of Zion;

We will sing with our hearts restored.

“He has done great things,” we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

1. We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord our God.
We are not consumed by the flame, upheld, protected, gathered up.

Refrain

2. In the dark of night, before the dawn, My soul, be not afraid;
For the promised morning, oh how long? Oh God of Jacob, be my strength!

Refrain

3. Ev'ry vow we've broken and betrayed; You are the faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave, Bind us together, bring shalom.

Refrain

The Greetings

The PrayerMr. Crane Kipp

The Young Children's Devotional — The *Children's Catechism*

Q68. How many offices does Christ fulfill as the promised Messiah? A: Christ fulfills three offices.

Q69. What are they? A: The offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king.

Q71. How is Christ your priest? A: Christ died for my sins, and continues to pray for me.

Q74. Why do you need Christ as your priest? A: Because I am guilty of breaking God's law.

The Meditation and Prayer..... Dr. Hartman

The Hymn — “Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”

1. Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior's name!
He has hushed the law's loud thunder, he has quenched Mount Sinai's flame:
He has washed us with his blood. He has washed us with his blood.
He has washed us with his blood, he has brought us night to God!

2. Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies,
Called us by his grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with his blood. He has washed us with his blood.
He has washed us with his blood, he presents our souls to God.
3. Let us sing, though fierce temptation threaten hard to bear us down!
For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqueror's crown:
He who washed us with his blood, He who washed us with his blood,
He who washed us with his blood soon will bring us home to God.
4. Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy's store;
When through grace in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more:
He who washed us with his blood, He who washed us with his blood,
He who washed us with his blood has secured our way to God.

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — John 13:1-20

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

The Sermon — A Final Conversation with Jesus.....Dr. Hartman

The Benediction

The Response

Let us praise, and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;
Here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky:
"You have washed us with your blood, you have washed us with your blood,
You have washed us with your blood; you are worthy, Lamb of God!"

The Postlude — "Go Tell It on the Mountain" A.D. Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

II THESSALONIANS 3:1 — *“Finally, brethren, pray for us....”*

Dale & Susan Ellison – Serving in administration and church planting with Christian Missionary Society in Trujillo, Peru. Email: daleellison@perumission.org.

Jegar Chinnavan and Jemima Jegar – Serving as church planters of First Asian Indian Presbyterian Church in Fairfax County, VA.
Email: jegarchinnavan@gmail.com.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are from the wedding of Morgan Elizabeth Bush and James Beck Scott in loving honor of Mrs. James Cunningham Morgan Jr., grandmother of the bride, and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Glen Bush, grandparents of the bride; Mr. James Cunningham Morgan Jr., grandfather of the bride; Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Edwin Scott, parents of the groom; Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Columbus Scott; grandparents of the groom; and Mr. and Mrs. James Beck Bigger, grandparents of the groom.

STEWARDSHIP 2021

As we prepare for the 2021 budget year, it is important that each member of our congregation support the work and worship of First Presbyterian Church. If you have not turned in your 2021 commitment card, you may place it in the offering plate during today's worship services. You may also pledge online by visiting our church app and click on "Giving," then "Pledge." To date, we have received 305 commitments for a total of \$3,712,745.

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

If you are planning to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church before the end of the year 2020, please notify Lee J. Webb in the Business Office via email at leejew@fpcjackson.org. In order for year-end church contributions to be deducted on your 2020 tax return, they must be received at First Presbyterian Church on or before December 31, 2020. The Business Office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. that day. If you mail your contribution, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2020. Security will be posted on the south side of the church (Pinehurst Street) to receive any contributions that may be dropped off after hours on December 31, 2020. You may give electronically until midnight, December 31, 2020, either through our church website or our church app with just one click on "Giving." All gifts received or postmarked after December 31, 2020, will apply to your 2021 Contribution Statement.

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL VIDEO SERIES

Our adult Sunday School teachers have prepared three video series for the month of January in lieu of meeting in person: **Hitherto the Lord has Helped Us** taught by Chase Wynn, **Will I Recognize Revival When It Comes: Acts 1-8** taught by Zeb Henson, and **A Guide for Prayer** taught by Bill Stone. Visit fpcj.ms/adult-sunday-school to watch the video lessons.

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 3, 2021

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship..... Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship..... Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

No Midweek Activities

Sunday, January 10, 2021

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship..... Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship..... Sanctuary