

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia

Morning Worship

The Lord's Day | December 6, 2020 | 9:15 & 10:45 a.m.

www.fpfo.org | 706.866.2521 | 1 Harker Road

THE SESSION

Ryan Biese, Moderator

Herman McConathy, Clerk

David Bosshardt

Wil Davis

THE DIACONATE

Bob Keller, Chairman

Lance Wood, Clerk

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. | www.FPFO.org | 706.866.2521 | The Lord's Day | December 6, 2020

*The Call to Worship

~ We Respond to God's Call to Worship Him ~

*The Psalm of Praise No. 24....."Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold the
2. A help - er just, he comes to thee, his char - iot
3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is
Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.
hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

6. So come, my Sov' reign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.

***The Prayer of Adoration**

***The Confession of Faith**Westminster Shorter Catechism Nos. 11 & 75

Q11. What are God's works of providence?

A11. *God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.*

Q74. What is required in the eighth commandment?

A74. *The eighth commandment requires us to obtain lawfully, and to further, the wealth and material well-being of ourselves and others.*

The Call to ConfessionEzekiel 18:30-31

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Confession of Sin

Father, God in heaven, You have told us that "blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Your own love for us demonstrates sacrifice of self for the sake of others, and yet we long to please ourselves at the cost of others.

We confess we have treated human beings as objects to be used, rather than people to be loved. We have looked for fulfillment in sexuality, instead of in our God, the giver of all good and delightful things. We confess we have immersed our thoughts, our eyes, and our bodies in the lies of the world rather than Your truth.

Please forgive us for using one of Your gifts and making it the center of our existence; grant us fresh eyes that long to bring healing to the sexually skewed and broken of this world. Please raise our eyes to look to Jesus as the image of the invisible God.

We confess we cannot make ourselves new, we cannot give ourselves new hearts or new spirits, but You are gracious and merciful; You can sprinkle clean water upon us and You can give us hearts and spirits that long to praise and please You. Flood our desires with the joy of Your Son Jesus, so that the things of this world grow strangely dim. In Jesus' Name.

The Silent Confession

~ God Meets His People's Needs in Christ ~

The Assurance of Pardon.....Ezekiel 36:25-29


I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules...and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses.

~ God's People Respond with Joy and Gratitude ~

*The Hymn of Thanksgiving "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"



1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a - right?
2. Love caused your in - car - na - tion, love brought you down to me;
3. Re - jice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,
4. Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.
your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.

O kin - dle, Lord Most Ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace,
 De - spair not, he is near you, yea, stand - ing at the door,
 He comes, for men pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
 who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
 for all God's sons se - cur - ing their her - i - tage in heav'n.

The Encouragement to GiveActs 20:35

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

~ God's People Call upon Him for Help ~

The Great Prayer

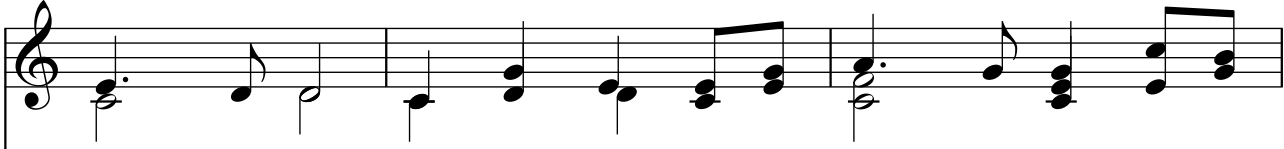
Please submit your prayer requests and/or record your attendance at worship with us via this [link](#) or the QR code below:



***The Hymn "Speak, O Lord"**



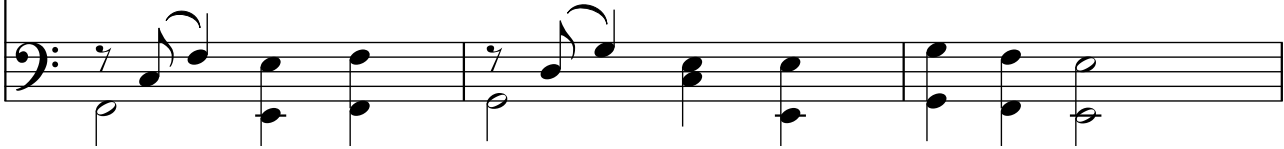
1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food of your
 2. Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu -
 3. Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of your



Ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and
 mil - i - ty. Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
 plans for us: truths un - changed from the dawn of time, that will



fash - ion us in your like - ness, that the light of Christ might be
 ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our
 ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on your



seen to-day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord,
 eyes to see your ma-jes-tic love and au-thor-i-ty. Words of pow'r
 prom-is-es; and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord,

and ful-fill in us all your pur-pos-es for your glo-ry.
 that can nev-er fail, let their truth pre-vail o-ver un-belief.
 'til your church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo-ry.

~ God Answers His People and Speaks in the Scripture ~

The SermonRev. Ryan Biese

“Where is Your Treasure?” | Exodus 20:16

I. Introduction

A. How are commands Six, Seven, and Eight connected?

B. Why is some thievery worse than other forms?

C. Why is it that the most straightforward and simple commands are often the most difficult?

II. Main Argument

A. God's Rights

1. Our Trust in Him:

a. At its core, what are thieves rejecting?

b. Why is God entitled to our trust?

2. Our Grateful Submission to God: why ought we submit ourselves to God in terms of material possessions?
 - a. How does King Ahab illustrate the sort of sinful behavior prohibited in this command?
 - b. Why is ingratitude spiritually deadly?
3. Flourishing of Culture: why is the flourishing of human culture important to God and one of His rights?
 - a. In what way does this command establish the righteousness of (lawfully acquired) private property?
 - b. What happens when private property is abolished?
 - c. When did God command mankind to develop vibrant civilizations and what do such cultures display?

B. Scope of Theft

1. Theft Against Self: in what sense or what ways can we steal from ourselves?
2. Theft Against Neighbor
 - a. Obvious Theft: what are some obvious sins against neighbors that you have witnessed?
 - b. Less Obvious Forms of Theft
 - (1) What are ways employees steal from their employers? Is this always malicious or planned?
 - (2) Why is borrowing small amounts of money carelessly theft?
 - (3) Why can a failure to tip adequately be theft?

c. Why is stealing from the poor a particularly grave sin against God even though it is sometimes less obviously theft?

d. Why ought we do what we can to enable our neighbor to keep his possessions? What ways we can show concern for our neighbor's financial well-being?

3. Theft Against God

a. Ultimately all theft is a sin against whom?

b. Why is disobedience robbery against God?

c. How is disregarding the holiness of the Christian Sabbath, the Lord's Day robbing God?

d. How is a lack of faithful giving robbery against God?

4. **Application**: what hope is there for thieves?

C. **Shunning Theft**: what always accompanies saving faith?

1. Root of Theft: what are the internal and external sources of theft?

2. Know God's Great Love for His People: what has God done for us?

a. Why does remembering what is ours in Christ deter theft?

b. Contentment: how do we find Christian contentment?

c. What is the tragedy with how people often measure life?

3. Cultivate Generosity: how does generosity cure thieving hearts?

a. Is there anything sinful with desiring to obtain things of lasting value and good investments?

b. What does Jesus mean by “unrighteous wealth?”

c. How do we know God has grace for thieves?

~ God’s People Respond to the Preaching of the Word ~

*The Hymn of Commitment.....“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on
3. O come, thou rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law
• tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 • and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

***The Benediction**

***The Response.....**“Good Christian Men, Rejoice!” (stanza 3)

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
 Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save! Christ born save!

Please don't forget to record your attendance, update your contact information, and/or submit prayer requests and praises. You can do so by email (office@fpfo.org), calling the church office (706.866.2521), or using the QR code below with your smartphone camera.



ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 6, 2020

Please Note: A mask (covering both mouth and nose) is required for all persons over age ten inside the building on Sundays. **This policy relies on individuals and parents to enforce for themselves and for their children.** For this reason, people concerned about respiratory complications are encouraged to attend the 9:15 a.m. service. As always, please observe common sense hygiene practices and of course join via the livestream if you are ill.

What About Nursery? Young children are *always* welcome in worship! Yes, even noisy ones. Yet, if parents prefer there is a nursery available in the lower level of the “new” building. We regret - due to the public health situation - the nursery is not staffed, but the service is live-streamed to the nursery.

- + Joint officer / 2021 Budget Meeting Wednesday, Dec 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night activities will resume next week.
- + Luke Wilson was very grateful for the Thanksgiving box sent by folks from the church. If you would like to contribute to a Christmas box, please see Sandy Keller or Mary Lou early this week.
- + Assistance with the live-streaming of the 10:45 a.m. at 6:00 p.m. services is needed. Minimal computer skills required. Please see Ryan if you are willing to minister.

December Evening Worship Series

Worship Christ the Newborn King | Joining the First Worshipers of Christ | 6 PM

Dec. 13: “The Simplicity of God,” Exodus 3:1-15 (Joe Wilson Preaching)

Dec. 20: “Worship of Angels and Shepherds,” Luke 2:8-17

Dec. 24: “Worship of the Saints in the Temple,” Luke 2:22-35

Dec. 27: “Worship of the Magi,” Matthew 2:1-12

Keep up with the church in her worship and work:

- + Sign up for text message alerts and updates by texting FPFO to 84576
- + If you are able to support the church in her worship and work, you can do so by placing your offering in the plate at the auditorium doors, mailing a check to the church office or by giving online: www.FPFO.org/give.
- + Weekly livestream services can be found on the church website: FPFO.org/live.