FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. | www.FPFO.org | 706.866.2521 | 1 Harker Road

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD'S DAY | NOVEMBER 8, 2026 | 10:45 A.M.

The Announcements

The Prelude

***The Call to Worship**.....**Revelation 7:10b & 12**

"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"… "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

***The Hymn of Praise No. 101**....."**Come, Thou Almighty King**"

***The Prayer of Adoration**

***The Confession of Faith**.....**The Apostles Creed TH pg. 845**

The Call to Confession of Sin .....**Jude 20-23**

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

The Prayer of Confession

Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to You that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as we ought. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgive us, and renew us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. We pray in Christ's Name. Amen.

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon ..... **1 Peter 1:17-19**

And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

***The Psalm of Thanks No. 635** ..... **"How Good It Is to Thank the Lord"**

~ We Respond to God's Grace with Offerings of Ourselves and Our Needs ~

The Offering and Encouragement to Give .....**Luke 6:38**

"Give and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

The Old Testament Reading..... **Numbers 13:1-33**

The Great Prayer ..... **TE Jim Richter**

***The Hymn of Preparation No. 303** ..... **"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"**

~ God Speaks to Us in His Word ~

The Sermon ..... **Rev. Jim Richter**

"Our Response to God's Sovereign Choices" | Romans 9:19-33 | Pg. 889

~ We Respond to God Speaking in His Word ~

***The Hymn of Response No. 34** ..... **"The God of Abraham Praise"**

***The Benediction**

***The Response No. 735**..... **"Gloria Patri"**

Sermon Outline
God's Righteous Sovereign Choices
Romans 9:1-33

In Romans chapter 9 Paul is dealing with the question of Israel's apparent rejection by God and the problem raised by that rejection, namely, that if God had not been faithful to Israel in saving all Jews, but rather has abandoned some to perish in their sins, what is to make us think that He will be faithful to the great promises He made in Romans 8? In answering that question Paul poses and answers a series of logically consecutive anticipated questions, which are either assumed or explicitly voiced.

1**. Paul gives the answer to an assumed, anticipated, question: Has God's Word failed? The explicit answer is no.** (Vs. 6-13) Paul explains that from the beginning of His dealings with national/ethnic Israel, God has made sovereign unconditional choices to make some individuals the objects of saving grace and to pass over others! He gives two**:** Isaac rather than Ismael, and Jacob rather than Esau. He explicitly states that God's choice between Jacob and Esau was made "before they were born or had done anything good or bad" in to make clear that this was God's sovereign unconditional choice.

2. An explicit question to which an explicit answer is given: Is God unjust to exercise His sovereign choices as He has? The answer is BY NO MEANS! (Vs. 14-18)
This question would not have been asked if God chose on the basis or merit. God's choice is a sovereign choice to show mercy to some from fallen humanity to whom nothing but judgement is due, and to harden others. Neither mercy or judgement is dispensed unjustly, in all His dealings God is dealing with sinners. God has the right to show mercy to anyone He chooses, and to harden anyone He chooses. (**Cf. Matthew 20:1-16**)

3. An explicit question which is threefold to which an answer is given by a challenge to think clearly: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists His will? But who are you, O man, to answer back to God?" The answer: God is God and we are not. Should the clay dictate to the potter what it shall be formed to be. (Vs. 19-24) We, as the clay, are all sinners. This must be remembered. The only reason anyone is saved is due to God's mercy. The reason anyone is condemned is due to their sin. In dealing with these questions Paul engages in a discussion of theodicy, namely, the justification of the ways of God in dealing with men and women. He speaks of the attributes of God displayed in the electing and reprobating process: love, wrath, hatred, power, glory, mercy and patience.

Our application: Submit to God's Word, Trust in His goodness and grace, Stand in awe and Thanksgiving for His mercy, and Pray and Witness to those who do not know Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2026

Announcements are due 5:00 p.m. Wednesdays and must be emailed to **secretary@firstpresfo.org**.

- A packet of updated information from the **missionaries and agencies** the church supports is now available on the table in the church foyer.

- Plan to attend the **church's annual Thanksgiving event**. On Tuesday, November 24, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall we will be gathering to share a catered meal and a time of recounting the blessings of the Lord over the past year. If it looks like you will be attending, please sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, preferably by November 2.

- **Operation Christmas Child** packing day is Saturday November 14th @ 10:30 at the church. We still need small stuffed animals. If anyone is interested in coordinating Operation Christmas Child beginning in January please contact Diana Bowers.

Keep Up With the Worship & Work of the Church

+ Sign up for text message alerts and updates by texting *FPFO* to 84576.
+ Subscribe to the prayer list, contact the church secretary: secretary@firstpresfo.org.
+ Contributions may be received during the offering in worship, mailing a check to the church office, or online: FPFO.org/give

To submit prayer requests, please email the church office or call 706-866-2521

FPFO Weekly Activities Schedule

The Lord's Day	**Wednesday**
9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time	
9:45 a.m. Sunday School	5:55 p.m. Covered-Dish Supper
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship	6:30-7:15 p.m. Prayer Meeting &
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship (excluding First Sundays)	Catechism Class for children

Children are welcome in worship, but nursery is also available for children 3 and under.

Nursery: **Nov. 8**: Sarah Wilson & L. Murphy **Nov. 15**: M.L. Wilson & L. Zuidema