

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD’S DAY | OCTOBER 18, 2026 | 10:45 A.M.

The Announcements

The Prelude

***The Call to Worship..... Psalm 150:1, 2 & 6**

Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens! Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

***The Psalm of Praise No. 10 “Hallelujah! Hallelujah!”**

***The Prayer of Adoration**

***The Confession of Faith The Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 60**

Q. How are you righteous before God?

A. Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God’s commandments, of never having kept any of them, and of still being inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without any merit of my own, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, and as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is accept this gift with a believing heart.

The Call to Confession..... Matthew 22:35-39

And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question to test Him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

The Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, You have loved us with such great love that You gave us Your only Son that we might be saved, and You command us to love You with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Yet, most merciful God, we confess that we have fallen far short of Your perfect law. We have not loved You with our whole heart, soul, and mind. We have prioritized our own desires, worshiped comfort and control, and allowed worldly anxieties to crowd out our devotion to You. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have been quick to judge and slow to forgive. We have ignored the needs of those around us, withheld grace, and protected our own interests at the expense of others. Forgive us, Lord, for our fractured love. Cleanse our hearts, renew our minds, and redirect our affections. By Your Holy Spirit, fill us with the knowledge of Your great love, and empower us to live out Your greatest commandments, that our lives may reflect the boundless love of Jesus Christ, our Savior. In His Name we pray, Amen.

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 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. 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.

***The Hymn of Thanks “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” (pg. 4-5)**

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

The Offering and Encouragement to Give Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Old Testament Reading Numbers 10:11-36

The Great Prayer TE Jim Richter

***The Hymn of Preparation No. 660 “O God Beyond All Praising”**

~ God Speaks to Us in His Word ~

The Sermon..... Rev. Jim Richter

“Questions Answered for Our Assurance” | Romans 8:31-39 | Pg. 888

~ We Respond to God Speaking in His Word ~

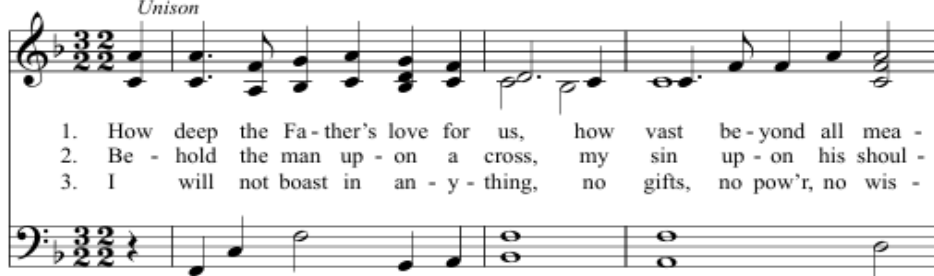
***The Hymn of Response No. 81 “O Love of God, How Strong and True”**

***The Benediction**

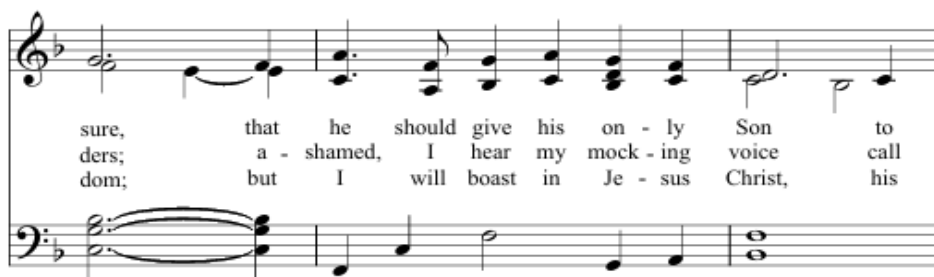
***The Response No. 733 “The Doxology”**

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

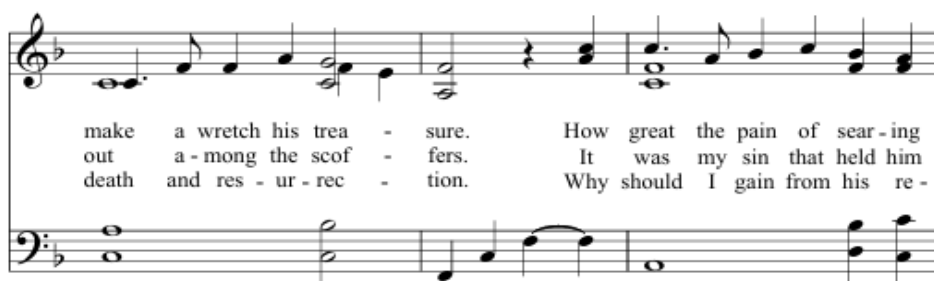
Unison



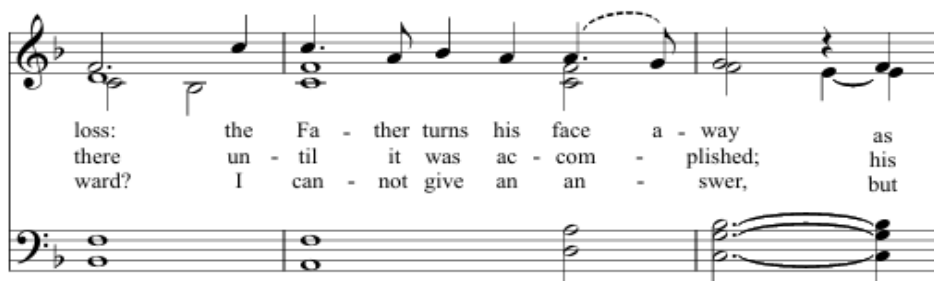
1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all mea -
 2. Be - hold the man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his shoul -
 3. I will not boast in an - y - thing, no gifts, no pow'r, no wis -



sure, that he should give his on - ly Son to
 ders; a - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
 dom; but I will boast in Je - sus Christ, his



make a wretch his trea - sure. How great the pain of sear - ing
 out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him
 death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re -



loss: the Fa - ther turns his face a - way as
 there un - til it was ac - com - plished; his
 ward? I can - not give an an - swer, but

wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
 dy - ing breath has brought me life— I know that it is fin - ished.
 this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

Stuart Townend

TOWNEND 8.7.8.7.D.
 Stuart Townend

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SERMON OUTLINE

Questions Answered for Our Assurance

Romans 8:31-39

Romans 8:28-39 is one of the most beloved sections in the Bible. In verses 31-39 Paul anticipates obstacles that might be raised regarding possession of solid assurance of God's saving grace and love, and he addresses these obstacles through a series of five questions stated and answered. As we consider these questions and answers today, may God use them to help us grow in confidence in God's gracious promises of saving grace to all who are in Christ by faith.

1. What then shall we say to these things? Vs. 31
2. If God is for us, who can be against us? Vs. 31
Not what, but **who**, the personal pronoun. Cf. Revelation 12:9-10; I Peter 5:8;
I John 4:1-6
Answer: Nobody that can prevail! Cf. Vs. 8:37
Implied Question: How do we know that God is for us? Because He gave us
His Son!
3. Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? Vs. 33
Answer: Satan brings charges, but they will not bring condemnation because
God has justified us through faith in Jesus Christ, and on the basis of His life,
death and resurrection. Cf. Revelation 12:10-11; Job 1:9-11; Zechariah 3:1-6;
Romans 3:21-31; 5:1 & 15-17
4. Who is to condemn? Vs. 34
Not just a repetition of "who will bring a charge".
Answer: Satan delights to stimulate our conscience to condemn us, but we
should remember that the Christ who died for our sins and rose again for our
justification is now at the Father's right hand interceding for us. You can
never be condemned!
5. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Vs. 35
Answer: No one and no thing! We are more than conquerors through Him who
loved us & nothing will separate us from God's love to us in Christ!

Application: Fear God, Trust God, Be assured of His grace and love!

For Your Contemplation

What would you ask for?

Joseph Alleine, "Alarm to the Unconverted" 1671

"That night God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said:

What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!" 2 Chronicles 1:7

*If God would give you your choice, as He did to Solomon--***what would you ask for?**

Go into the *gardens of **pleasure***, and gather all the fragrant flowers there--would these satisfy you?

Go to the *treasures of **mammon***--suppose you may carry away as much as you desire.

Go to the towers, to the *trophies of **honor***--and become a man of renown.

Would *any* of these, would *all* of these satisfy you, and make you to count yourself happy? If so, then certainly you are carnal and unconverted.

Converting grace turns the heart from its idols--to the living God. Before conversion, the man minded his farm, friends, and pleasures more than Christ. He found more sweetness in his merry company, worldly gains, earthly delights--than in Christ. Now he says, "But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider *everything* a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ!" Philippians 3:7-8

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OCTOBER 18, 2026

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

- ❖ Each week the church's prayer list includes a prayer request for the sensitive, compassionate, effective work of **Harvest USA**, which promotes Biblical sexuality, and ministers to sexual strugglers. The church does not currently support them financially. Any individual donations from October 18-20 will be doubled during their Give to this Cause fundraising drive. Further info is available at <https://faithfulgive.org/cause/harvestusa/>
- ❖ A **catechism class** has begun on Wednesday evenings, from 6:30 to 7:15 pm for children ages 4-12, led by Sarah Wilson. The younger ones (ages 4-8) will use the Children's Catechism (based on the WSC) and the older ones will use the Westminster Shorter Catechism.
- ❖ **Operation Christmas Child** collection needs 50 water bottles, 30 washcloths and 30 toothbrushes. These totals will help us pack 120 boxes. Cash donations are welcome to purchase things online.

Keep Up With the Worship & Work of the Church

- + Sign up for text message alerts and updates by texting **FPFO** to 84576.
- + To subscribe to the prayer list, please 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

FPFO Weekly Activities Schedule

The Lord's Day

Wednesday

9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
(excluding First Sundays)

5:55 p.m. Covered-Dish Supper

6:30-7:15 p.m. Prayer Meeting &
Catechism Class for children

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

Nursery: **Oct 18:** L. Bible & A. Wilson **Oct. 25:** E. Wilson & J. Porter