

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD'S DAY | DECEMBER 31, 2023 | 10:45 A.M.

The Announcements

Please submit your prayer requests and/or record your attendance at worship with us:



*The Call to Worship

*The Hymn of Praise No. 220.....“From Heaven High I Come to You”

*The Prayer of Adoration

*The Confession of FaithThe Westminster Larger Catechism Nos. 40 & 42

Q. Why was it required that the mediator should be God and man in one person?

A. *It was required that the mediator, who was to reconcile God and man, should Himself be both God and man, and this in one person, that the proper works of each nature might be accepted of God for us, and relied on by us, as the works of the whole person.*

Q. Why was our mediator called *Christ*?

A. *Our mediator was called Christ, because He was anointed with the Holy Ghost above measure; and so set apart, and fully furnished with all authority and ability, to execute the offices of prophet, priest, and king of His church, in the estate both of His humiliation and exaltation.*

The Call to ConfessionEphesians 4:25–27

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.

From Heaven High I Come to You

220

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10

1. "From heav - en high I come to you, I bring you
 2. "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
 3. "This is the Christ, our God and Lord, who in all
 4. "These are the to - kens ye shall mark: the swad - dling

tid - ings good and new; glad tid - ings of great
 chos - en vir - gin mild; this lit - tle child, of
 need shall aid af - ford; he will him - self your
 clothes and man - ger dark; there ye shall find the

joy I bring, where - of I now will say and sing.
 low - ly birth, shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be from all your sins to set you free.
 in - fant laid by whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

5. Now let us all with gladsome cheer
 go with the shepherds and draw near
 to see the precious Gift of God,
 who hath his own dear Son bestowed.

6. Welcome to earth, thou noble guest,
 through whom the sinful world is blest!
 In my distress thou com'st to me;
 what thanks shall I return to thee?

The Confession of Sin

O Lord, we marvel that You became incarnate, were crucified, dead, and buried. The tomb calls forth our adoring wonder, for it is empty and You are risen.

Give us to die with You that we may rise to new life, for we wish to be as dead and buried to sin, to selfishness, to the world; that we might not hear the voice of the tempter, and might be delivered from his lusts. O Lord, there is much ill around us and sin within us - crucify it! Much flesh within us - mortify it!

Purge us from selfishness, the fear of man, the love of praise, the shame of being thought old-fashioned, the desire to be seen as cultivated or modern.

Grant us to stand with our dying Savior, to be content to be rejected, to be willing to take up unpopular truths, and to hold fast despised teachings until death.

Grant us more and more of the resurrection life: may it rule us, may we walk in its power, and be strengthened through its influence. For the glory of our living Savior. Amen.

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of PardonLuke 24:46-47

Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

*The Psalm of Thanksgiving No. 119....."LORD, Let My Cry Before You Come"

1. ¹⁶⁹LORD, let my cry be - fore you come; give un - der -
2. ¹⁷¹Prais - es will pour forth from my lips; you teach me
3. ¹⁷³LORD, let your hand be near to help; for your com -
4. ¹⁷⁵Let my soul live and boast in you; let your com -

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 2/2. The melody consists of several measures of music, including chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are aligned with the notes of the melody.

stand - ing through your word. ¹⁷⁰And let my plea be -
 all your stat - utes, LORD. ¹⁷²Since your com - mand - ments
 mand - ments are my choice. ¹⁷⁴I long for your sal -
 mand - ments help me, LORD. ¹⁷⁶Seek me, your sheep who's

fore you come; as you have spo - ken, save me, LORD.
 all are right, joy - ful, my tongue will sing your word.
 va - tion, LORD, and in your pre - cepts I re - jice.
 gone a - stray, for I, your ser - vant, know your word.

The Encouragement to Give.....Acts 2:45-47

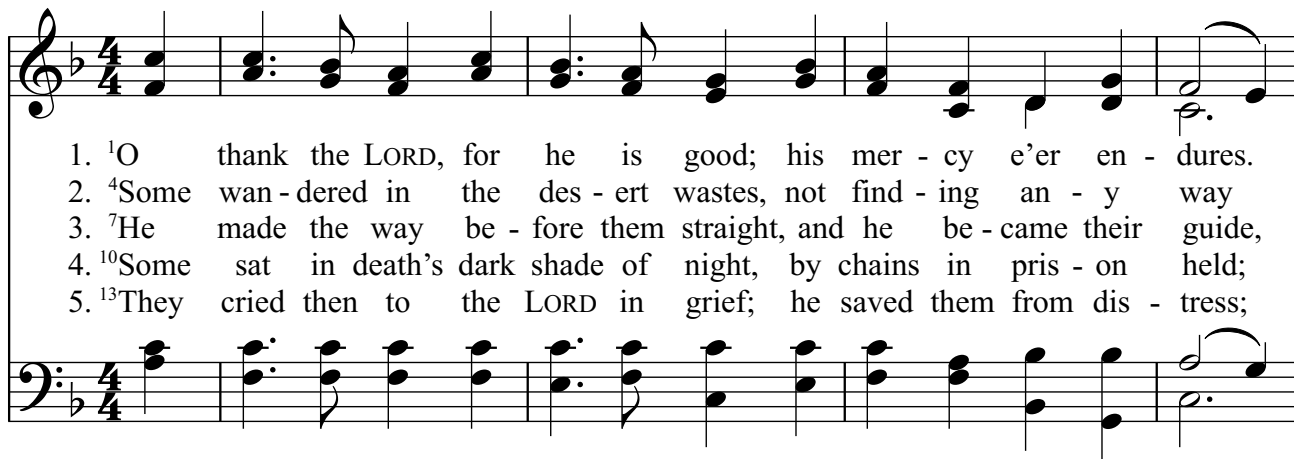
And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The Offertory

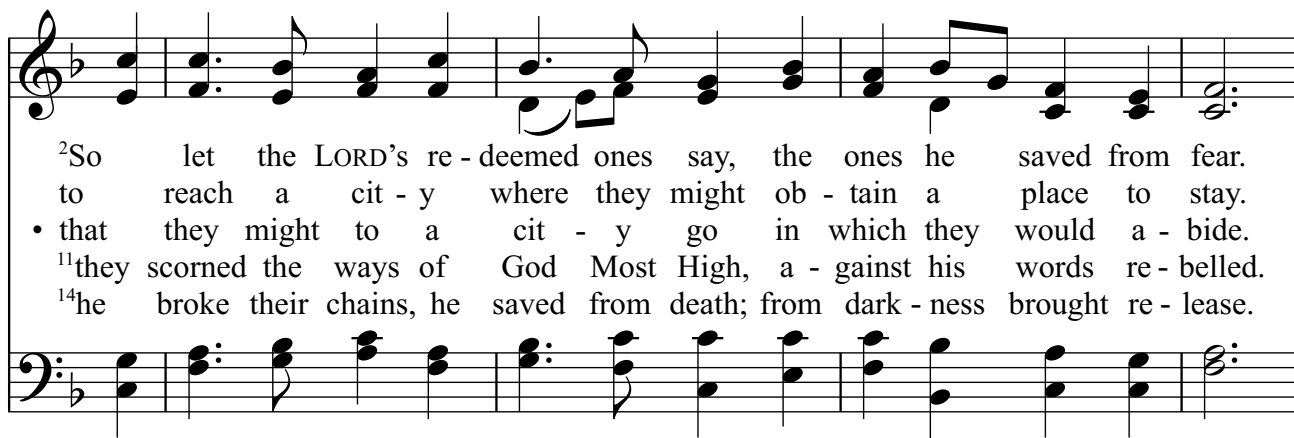
The Great Prayer.....Elder Ryan Biese

***The Psalm No. 107“O Thank the LORD” (p. 4)**

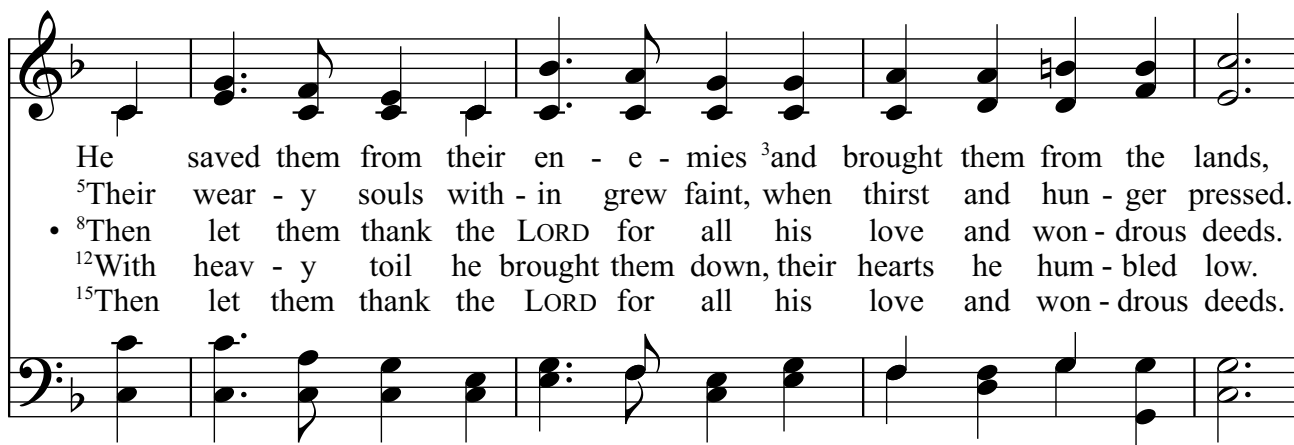
Psalm 107A



1. ¹O thank the LORD, for he is good; his mer - cy e'er en - dures.
2. ⁴Some wan - dered in the des - ert wastes, not find - ing an - y way
3. ⁷He made the way be - fore them straight, and he be - came their guide,
4. ¹⁰Some sat in death's dark shade of night, by chains in pris - on held;
5. ¹³They cried then to the LORD in grief; he saved them from dis - tress;



²So let the LORD's re - deemed ones say, the ones he saved from fear.
to reach a cit - y where they might ob - tain a place to stay.
• that they might to a cit - y go in which they would a - bide.
¹¹they scorned the ways of God Most High, a - gainst his words re - belled.
¹⁴he broke their chains, he saved from death; from dark - ness brought re - lease.



He saved them from their en - e - mies ³and brought them from the lands,
⁵Their wear - y souls with - in grew faint, when thirst and hun - ger pressed.
• ⁸Then let them thank the LORD for all his love and won - drous deeds.
¹²With heav - y toil he brought them down, their hearts he hum - bled low.
¹⁵Then let them thank the LORD for all his love and won - drous deeds.

from east and west, from north and south, from ad - ver - sar - ies' hands.
⁶They cried then to the LORD in grief; he saved them from dis - tress.
 • ⁹He fills the hun - gry soul with good, sup - plies the soul in need.
 They stum - bled in their deep dis - tress, with none to help their woe.
¹⁶He breaks in two their i - ron bars, de - stroys their met - al gates.

13. ⁴¹But God has raised the needy ones from evil, grief and woe.
 He gathered them like flocks of sheep and made their fam'lies grow.
⁴²The upright see and celebrate; the wicked speak no word.
⁴³Let all the wise consider well the mercy of the LORD.

The Sermon.....Rev. Ryan Biese

“The Vinedresser’s Work” | John 15:1-5 | p. 848 | *Light Shines in the Darkness* No. 92

SERMON NOTES

I. Introduction

A. The True Vine

B. The Fruitful Branches

II. Main Argument

A. Bearing More Fruit (vv. 1-2)

1. Jesus the True Vine

2. Fruitful Branches

3. Mark of a Christian

4. Pruned by Providence

B. Cleansed by the Word (v. 3)

1. Already Clean

2. Centrality of God's Word

3. The Manner of Pruning

C. Abiding in the Vine (vv. 4-5)

1. Branch among the Branches

2. Bearing Much Fruit

3. Enabled to Bear Fruit

III. Conclusion

*The Hymn of Commitment No. 207.....“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

*The Benediction

*The Response No. 735“The Gloria Patri”

*Glory be to the Father, And to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, Is now, and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.
 Luke 2:11

1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
 2. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
 3. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened heav - en's door, and man is bless - ed ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Medieval Latin carol
 Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1853; alt.
 Alt. 1961

IN DULCI JUBILO 6.6.7.7.8.5.5.
 German melody, 14th cent.
 Arr. by W. D., 1918

He Came for Us.

6:00 p.m. Lord's Day Evenings in December

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5

NEW YEAR'S LADIES LUNCH

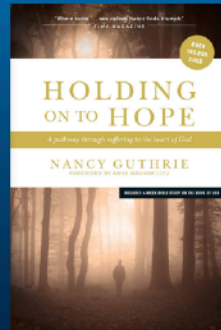
Saturday, January 13

*Please sign up in the fellowship hall or email Sandra Taylor.
Lunch provided; please bring a dessert to share.*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*Suffering can overshadow everything and threaten to pull us under. Nancy Guthrie's **Holding On to Hope** offers an uplifting perspective from the Book of Job, not only for those experiencing monumental loss, but for anyone going through difficulty and failure.*

Fortnightly on Saturdays | 9:00 a.m.
Contact Susan Wilson for more details.
Starts January 6, 2024



Spotify

The FFO Sermon Podcast
will be moving to a new
platform in 2024.
Please subscribe!



iTunes

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 31, 2023

- + Evening worship continues tonight at 6:00; come and answer God's call to worship Him at the close of the Lord's Day. We will have our usual hymn sing prior to the start of evening worship, so if there are any hymns you would like to sing that we have not yet sung this year, be ready with your requests!
- + Offerings for 2023 must be given online, received by the church office, or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2023 in order to be credited for this year.
- + Midweek Activities and Sunday School classes will resume the week of Jan 7, 2024.
- + The combined youth & young adults Sunday school class will survey the "minor prophets" beginning January 7.
- + Congregational Forum on January 14, 2023. We will present the budget to the congregation as well as other updates on the life of First Presbyterian Church and our hopes to plan for the future and receive feedback from the congregation.

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: office@fpfo.org.
- + Contributions may be received by placing your offering in the offering plate, by mailing a check to the church office, or online: [FPFO.org/give](https://fpfo.org/give).

FPFO Weekly Activities Schedule

The Lord's Day

9:20 a.m. Fellowship Time
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
5:00 p.m. Sermon Broadcast
WAAK 94.7 FM
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
(excluding First Sundays)

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer Meeting
5:55 p.m. Covered-Dish Supper
6:30-7:15 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:30 p.m. Children's Singing Class

On First, Third, and Fifth Wednesdays
there is outreach at the Crossings Apts.

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

Nursery Dec. 31: H. Rowan & C. Rowan

Jan. 7: M.L. Wilson & L. Bible