

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. | [www.FPFO.org](http://www.FPFO.org) | 706.866.2521 | 1 Harker Road

---

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD'S DAY | DECEMBER 3, 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

~ God's People Respond to His Call to Worship ~

\*The Hymn of Praise No. 198 ..... "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!"

## \*The Prayer of Adoration and Lord's Prayer

Our Father which 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.

## The Presentation of New Members: Chris & Andra van der Merwe

- + Biblical Explanation
- + Vows of Membership
- + Prayer
- + Benediction

## \*The Confession of Faith.....The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

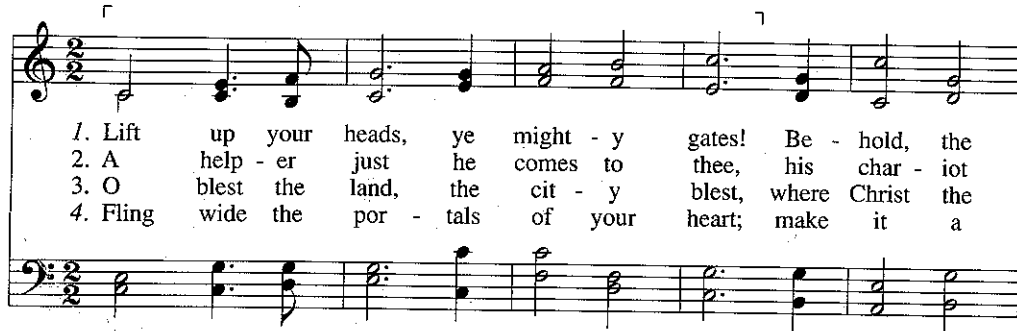
*I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

~ God Calls Us to Confess Our Sins ~

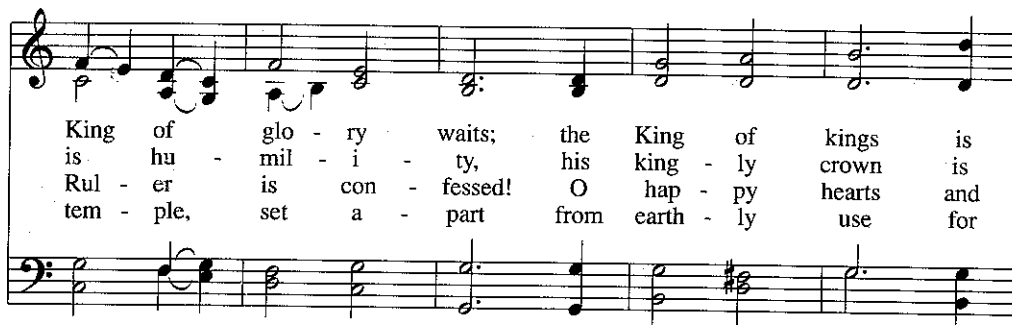
## Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

198

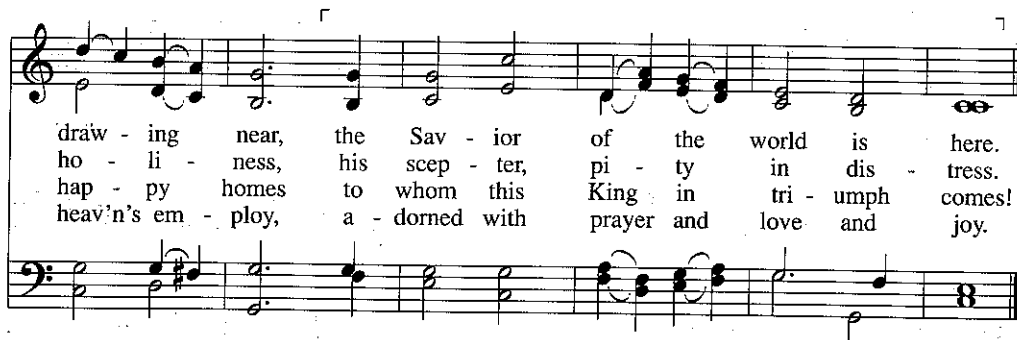
*Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory  
may come in. Ps. 24:7*



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, pi - ty 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 Sovereign, enter in!  
Let new and nobler life begin!  
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,  
until the glorious crown be won.

**The Call to Confession**.....1 John 1:8

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**The Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you 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 and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**The Silent Confession**

**The Assurance of Pardon**.....Joel 2:12-13

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.”

**\*The Psalm of Thanksgiving No. 23**.....“The LORD’s My Shepherd”

1. <sup>1</sup> The LORD's my Shep - herd, lead - ing me;  
 2. <sup>3</sup> And He re - stores my soul a - gain;  
 3. <sup>4</sup> Though in a val - ley dark as death,

I will not be in need.  
 He guides the steps I take  
 No e - vil will I fear;

2 He'll make me lie in pas - tures green;  
 To walk a - long a righ - teous path,  
 Your rod and staff, they com - fort me,  
 By qui - et wa - ters lead.  
 All for His own name's sake.  
 For You are al - ways near.

4. <sup>5</sup> A feast You have prepared for me  
 In sight of all my foes;  
 And You anoint my head with oil,  
 My full cup overflows.

5. <sup>6</sup> What love and goodness all my life  
 Will follow after me;  
 And in the LORD's house evermore  
 My dwelling place will be.

**~ We Respond to God's Grace with Offerings of Ourselves and Our Needs ~  
 The Offering Encouragement to Give.....Philippians 4:19-20**

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory  
 in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

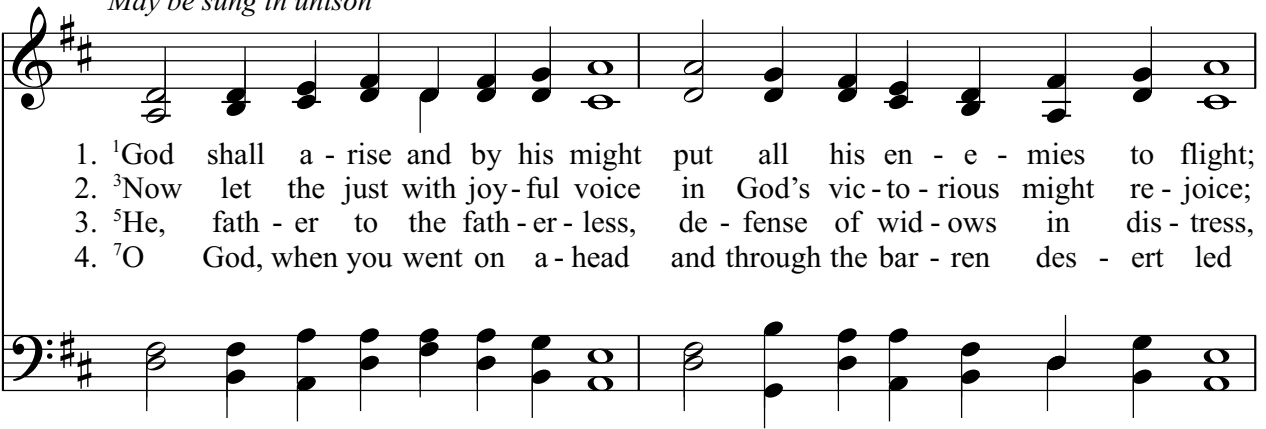
**The Great Prayer .....Pastor Ryan Biese**

**~ God Speaks to Us in His Word ~**

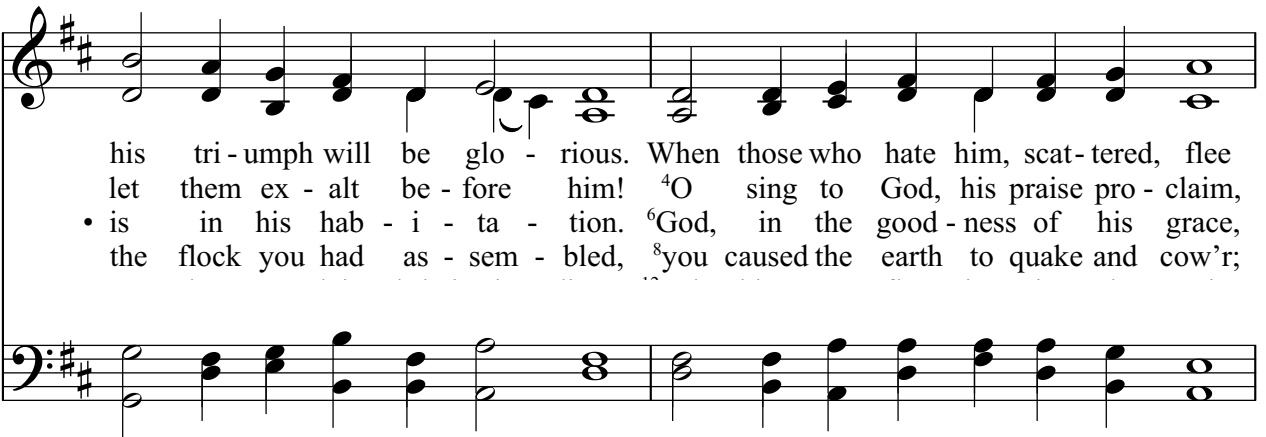
**\*The Psalm No. 68....."God Shall Arise and By His Might" (pages 4-5)**

# Psalm 68A

*May be sung in unison*



1. <sup>1</sup>God shall a - rise and by his might put all his en - e - mies to flight;  
2. <sup>3</sup>Now let the just with joy - ful voice in God's vic - to - rious might re - joice;  
3. <sup>5</sup>He, fath - er to the fath - er - less, de - fense of wid - ows in dis - tress,  
4. <sup>7</sup>O God, when you went on a - head and through the bar - ren des - ert led



his tri - umph will be glo - rious. When those who hate him, scat - tered, flee  
let them ex - alt be - fore him! <sup>4</sup>O sing to God, his praise pro - claim,  
• is in his hab - i - ta - tion. <sup>6</sup>God, in the good - ness of his grace,  
the flock you had as - sem - bled, <sup>8</sup>you caused the earth to quake and cow'r;



be - fore his pow'r and maj - es - ty, our God will be vic - to - rious.  
and with your psalms ex - tol his name; in joy - ful song a - dore him.  
• gives lone - ly ones a dwell - ing place; he grants them con - so - la - tion.  
O God of Is - r'el, great in pow'r, be - fore you Si - nai trem - bled.

<sup>2</sup>For just as wind blows smoke a - way, he will dis - perse the proud ar - ray  
Lift up your voice and sing a - loud to him who rides up - on the clouds  
• He leads the cap - tive out to see the joys of new - found lib - er - ty,  
<sup>9</sup>You with a - bun - dant rain, O Lord, your wear - y her - i - tage re - stored

of those who e - vil cher - ish. Like wax that melts be - fore the fire,  
high in the spa - cious heav - ens. The LORD—that is his glor - ious name.  
• for boun - teous is God's mer - cy. But who a - gainst him dare re - bel  
and, as you had de - cid - ed, <sup>10</sup>you let your peo - ple set - tle there;

they will be van - quished by God's ire; the wick - ed all will per - ish.  
Re - joice in him with loud ac - claim; to him be glo - ry giv - en.  
• must ev - er - more with fam - ine dwell in des - erts dry and thirst - y.  
you blessed them with your lav - ish care and for the poor pro - vid - ed.

12. <sup>32</sup>Praise God and shout his glory forth, O kings and kingdoms of the earth!  
In joyful song adore him. <sup>33</sup>Praise him who rides the ancient sky,  
who thunders forth his battle cry; let all bow down before him.  
<sup>34</sup>Proclaim his pow'r and spread his fame, for great in Isr'el is his name;  
his might is in the heavens. <sup>35</sup>O awesome God, you from your throne  
with pow'r and glory bless your own. To you all praise be given!

SERMON NOTES

---

**A. Jesus’ Teaching (v. 25)**

1. Preparation
2. Comfort
3. His Word
4. Doctrine for Living

**B. The Helper (v. 26)**

1. More Details
2. The Power of Christ

**C. The Work of the Spirit (vv. 26-27a)**

1. Spirit of Holiness
2. Teach and Remind
3. Bring Peace

# Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands

427

*Jesus came and stood among them and said ..., "Put your finger here; see my hands."*  
John 20:26, 27

Capo 3: ♮ (D) (A) (D) (Em) (B) (Em) (D) (A) (D) ♮

1. A - midst us our Be - lov - ed stands, and bids us  
 2. What food lux - u - rious loads the board, when at his  
 3. If now, with eyes de - filed and dim, we see the  
 4. O glo - rious Bride - groom of our hearts, your pres - ent

(G) (D) (A<sup>7</sup>) (D) (A<sup>7</sup>) (D) (A) (D) (A) (D) (Em) (B)

view his pierc - ed hands; points to the wound - ed  
 ta - ble sits the Lord! The wine how rich, the  
 signs, but see not him; O may his love the  
 smile a heav'n im - parts! O lift the veil, if

(Em) (D) (A) (D) ♮ (A<sup>7</sup>) (Bm) (Em<sup>7</sup>) (A<sup>7</sup>) (D) ♮

feet and side, blest em - blems of the Cru - ci - fied.  
 bread how sweet, when Je - sus deigns the guests to meet!  
 scales dis - place, and bid us see him face to face!  
 veil there be, let ev - ery saint your glo - ry see!



~ We Respond to God Speaking in His Word ~

\*The Psalm of Response No. 427 .....“Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands”

~ God Shows His Commitment to Us ~

**The Communion of Christ and His People at His Table**

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Consecration

The Distribution of the Elements

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

~ God's People Respond to His Grace Displayed ~

\*The Psalm of Praise No. 117 .....“Praise Jehovah, All Ye Nations” (page 8)

**The Benediction**

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

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Praise Him above, ye heavenly host!*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

<sup>1</sup>Praise Je - ho - vah, all ye na - tions, all ye peo - ple praise pro - claim;

<sup>2</sup>for his grace and lov - ing - kind - ness O sing prais - es to his name.

For the great - ness of his mer - cy con - stant praise to him ac - cord;

ev - er - more his truth en - dur - eth; hal - le - lu - jah, praise the Lord!

# *The Lord's Supper:*

*not just a snack after a lecture*

Reformed worship is an integrated whole with each of the elements of the worship service building upon one another. God calls His people to worship, and His people respond to that call. Reformed worship is a response to the truth of Who God is and what He has done in creation and redemption.

This is all the more the case when we come to the Lord's Table as we will do this morning. Our Westminster Standards remind us that all who come to the Lord's Table should prepare themselves to meet with Christ there by faith and commune with Him and His people at the Table:

## **What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?**

*It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves, of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon Him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves. (Westminster Shorter Catechism No. 97)*

So there is an individual aspect to preparing to come to the Lord's Table, but coming to the Lord's Table is fundamentally a group, corporate activity. The Lord's Supper, by its very nature, is a corporate act, which is reflected in it being commonly called *Communion* or *Holy Communion*. It is not communion with Christ only, but with all His people at the Table.

This is why Reformed Christians reject the idea of "private communion" or "virtual communion" but teach that the Lord's Supper (i.e. Communion) can only take place within the context of gathered, corporate worship. Our Standards again emphasize this clearly, stating that to do otherwise is "contrary to the nature of this sacrament, and to the institution of Christ" (WCF 29.4).

In light of the nature of the Lord's Supper, it should be understood that corporate worship is the culmination of one's private preparation to commune at Christ's Table. While private preparation is vital, the most important preparation for communion takes place with the people of God as we worship together.

In a worship service with the Lord's Table, each of the elements of the worship service work to prepare us to commune with Christ.

In public worship, we confess our common faith together, we confess our sinfulness together, and together we are assured by God in His word that He for-

-gives us all our sins, that He has made us worthy to commune with Him by faith. We then respond by offering to God our needs and our wealth confident that He will meet all our needs in Christ.

In the reading and preaching of the word, God speaks to His people from the Scripture as He declares afresh Who He is and what He has done for us in Christ. Preaching is not simply a lecture about God or about theology; preaching is not a moral exhortation to be better citizens and try harder in parenting. Preaching is God speaking to His people. It is the high point of the worship service and sets before us the character of the God with Whom we commune at the Table.

Likewise, the Lord's Supper is not just a snack that follows a lecture on theological topics, but a response to the preaching of the Word. As God both reveals and confronts us with His character to us in the preaching, we see how undeserving we are of any good thing in communion with Him. And yet the preaching also confronts us with the good news, *the gospel*, that God has dealt with us not according to what we deserve, but according to His grace and mercy in Christ.

The Lord's Table illustrates that reality: God serves, blesses, receives those who come to Him acknowledging their need of His grace in confession of their sins. The Table demonstrates what is declared in the words of the Assurance of Pardon: God not only forgives sinners, but welcomes and provides abundantly for them in Christ.

For this reason, it is vitally important to be participating fully in public worship, especially when we come to the Table. God uses the ordinary means of grace - the Word, Sacraments, and Prayer - to communicate the benefits of redemption to His people. There is more happening in worship than we perceive; the Spirit is at work in us and upon us in all the elements of the worship service. We are not coming to a lecture, but divine worship where God meets with and transforms His people.

In light of how the elements of the worship service work to help us prepare to come to the Lord's Table, the Session encourages everyone to come on time and prepared to worship the living God. And Session advises anyone who arrives after the corporate confession of sin that he or she, should not partake in the Supper that Lord's Day, since that is a vital aspect of personal and corporate preparation.

While a person might be providentially hindered from being on time to worship, that providential occurrence nonetheless has prevented preparing along with the rest of the body of Christ to come to the Table at that time and thus casts doubt on whether he or she can rightly "discern the Lord's Body" that Lord's Day. Yet even if one must come late, he or she still ought to come to worship and heartily hear in the Word what is displayed at the Table and look forward to again coming to Christ's Table with all His people to partake in Christ's body and blood by faith.

# 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



Spotify

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



iTunes

## Youth & Young Adult Christmas Party

Saturday, December 9, 2023 | 5:00 p.m.

At the home of Jeff & Beth Rowan

# ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 3, 2023

- + There is no evening worship this Lord's Day. It resumes next week; you are encouraged to worship with another local congregation tonight!
- + Designated gifts to the Staff Love Offering may be made now through Dec. 24. Please watch for love offering envelopes arriving in the mail along with a letter from the Session Clerk with more details.
- + Nominations for church office (Elder & Deacon) will be accepted during the month of January. Please be in prayer now asking God to raise up additional officers to serve this congregation and to grant *you* discernment on whether to nominate a man for church office.

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



Monday is the 50th Anniversary of the PCA. On Dec. 4, a special episode of Pastor Biese's podcast will debut with some of the PCA's Founding Fathers including O. Palmer Robertson and Joseph Pipa. Please subscribe to the Westminster Standard.



## FPFO Weekly Activities Schedule

### The Lord's Day

9:30 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  
6:30-7:15 p.m. Children's Song 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. 3: A. Bandy & M. Tuggle

Dec. 10: B. Rowan & S. Wilson