

First Presbyterian Church

Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia

Evening Worship in Word & Sacrament

The Lord's Day | December 17, 2023 | 6 o'clock

www.fpfo.org | 706.866.2521

THE SESSION

Ryan Biese, Moderator

Nathan Bowers, Clerk

Herman McConathy

David Bosshardt

Wil Davis

THE DIACONATE

Bob Keller, Chairman

Bill Henshall

THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 17, 2023 | 6:00 p.m.

THE HYMN SING

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*THE HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 217“All My Heart, This Night Rejoices”

*THE INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

*THE CONFESSION OF FAITHThe 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.*

*THE LAW OF GODGalatians 5:16–21

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Heavenly Father, Who gathers Your children to Yourself, we confess that we have not walked in love, as You have loved us by giving Your Son. Instead, we find ourselves walking down the paths that You have told us not to walk; and we find ourselves drawn to the very things from which we were saved.

We acknowledge that our hearts have entertained lust, uncleanness, and all manner of covetousness. Our lips have uttered that which is filthy, foolish and coarse, and we have not lived before You with hearts of thanksgiving.

In Your great mercy, forgive us for the thoughts of our hearts and the actions of our lives that where we have sinned against Your word, and renew a right spirit within us for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ.

THE SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON1 John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins.

*THE PSALM OF THE MONTH NO. TH110.....“Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah” (Psa. 148)

THE SCRIPTURE READINGLuke 1:39-55

THE SERMON“ A Redeemer”

I. Introduction

II. Main Argument

A. Elizabeth Blesses Mary (vv. 39-45)

1. Full of the Holy Spirit

2. Twofold Blessing

B. Mary Praises God for His Blessings (vv. 46-49)

1. Mary's Response

a. Application: *Blessings should result in praise.*

b. Mary's song echoes the Old Testament

c. Mary is speaking from the heart; her heart overflows with...

2. Deep Praise of God (vv. 46-47)

3. God's Surprising Concern (vv. 48-49)

a. Contrast

b. Application: *Despite her honor, her own spiritual and undeserving need are foremost in her mind.*

C. Mary Praises God for His Mighty Deeds (vv. 50-53)

1. Mary an Exemplar

a. Why does Mary use the past tense?

b. For whom is God's mercy?

2. Reversed Fortunes

a. Summary

(1) Scatter

(2) Brought Down

(3) Exalt

(4) Filled

(5) Sent Away

b. Why does God take aim at the rich and powerful?

3. Vindication

a. How does this demonstrate the authenticity of this Gospel?

b. To what does Mary's song invite us?

c. Retribution: Why is Paul so certain?

D. Mary Praises God for His Faithfulness Now and Always (vv. 54-55)

1. God's Promises

2. God Keeps His Promises

III. Conclusion

*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 230“Thou Who Wast Rich, Beyond All Splendor”

WE COMMUNE WITH CHRIST BY FAITH
THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION
THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION
THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*THE PSALM OF THANKSGIVING NO. 117“Praise Jehovah All Ye Nations (p. 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!*

Christmas caroling at The Crossing immediately following worship tonight. Treats and hot-chocolate provided. See Joe Wilson or David Bosshardt for more information.

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

²for 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!