

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD'S DAY | DECEMBER 24, 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. 195.....“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

### \*The Prayer of Adoration

\*The Confession of Faith.....The Westminster Larger Catechism Nos. 38, 39 & 41

Q. Why was it required that the mediator should be God?

A. *It was required that the mediator should be God, that He might sustain and keep the human nature from sinking under the infinite wrath of God, and the power of death; give worth and efficacy to His sufferings, obedience and intercession; and to satisfy God's justice, procure His favor, purchase a peculiar people, give His Spirit to them, conquer all their enemies, and bring them to everlasting salvation.*

Q. Why was it required that the mediator should be man?

A. *It was required that the mediator should be man, that He might advance our nature, perform obedience to the law, suffer and make intercession for us in our nature, have a fellow-feeling of our infirmities; that we might receive the adoption of sons, and have comfort and access with boldness unto the throne of grace.*

Q. Why was our mediator called Jesus?

A. *Our mediator was called Jesus, because He saves His people from their sins.*

The Call to Confession.....Philippians 2:12–13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 98:4

♩ D A<sup>7</sup> D G A

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

D 7

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

A

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

♩ D D/A A<sup>7</sup> and D 7

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

Based on Psalm 98  
 Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH C.M.rep.  
 George Frederick Handel, 1742  
 Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

## The Confession of Sin

*Almighty, eternal God and Father, we confess and acknowledge unto You that we were conceived in unrighteousness and are full of sin and transgression all our life. We do not fully believe Your Word nor follow Your holy commandments. Remember Your goodness, we beseech You, and for Your Name's sake be gracious unto us, and forgive us our iniquity which, alas, is very great. Amen.*

## The Silent Confession

### The Assurance of Pardon .....Isaiah 1:18

Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

### \*The Psalm of Thanksgiving No. 71....."In You, LORD, I Take Refuge"



1. <sup>1</sup>In you, LORD, I take ref - uge; pro - tect me from dis - grace.  
2. <sup>4</sup>From wick - ed hands, God, free me, hands cru - el and un - just;  
3. <sup>7</sup>To man - y I'm a won - der; you are my ref - uge strong.  
4. <sup>11</sup>They say, "God has for - sak - en! Pur - sue him! None will save!"



<sup>2</sup>In righ - teous - ness de - liv - er me, and res - cue me in grace.  
<sup>5</sup>you, Lord, have ev - er been my hope; from youth, O LORD, my trust.  
<sup>8</sup>My mouth is brim - ming with your praise and glo - ry all day long.  
<sup>12</sup>O God, do not be far from me. O help me, God; make haste!

<sup>3</sup>A rock of ref - uge be to me, my con - stant safe re - sort.  
<sup>6</sup>I leaned up - on you from my birth and through my ear - ly days;  
<sup>9</sup>Re - ject me not when I am old, when all my strength is spent;  
<sup>13</sup>A - shamed may my ac - cus - ers be, my foes con - sumed by scorn.

Sal - va - tion you or - dained for me; you are my rock and fort.  
 you took me from my moth - er's womb. I give you con - stant praise.  
<sup>10</sup>for en - e - mies are watch - ing me, to - geth - er they con - sent.  
<sup>14</sup>But I will ev - er hope in you, and praise you more and more.

**The Encouragement to Give .....Galatians 4:4-5**

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.

**The Offertory**

**The Great Prayer.....Elder Nathan Bowers**

**\*The Psalm No. 80 .....“Great Shepherd Who Leadest Thy People” (p. 4)**

1. Great shep - herd who lead - est thy peo - ple in love, 'mid cher - u - bim  
 2. O haste, Lord, to hear us and pit - y our woes, af - flic - tion our  
 3. A place for thy peo - ple thou, Lord, didst pre - pare, thy vine deep - ly  
 4. Thy vine - yard no long - er thy ten - der care knows, de - fense - less, the

dwel - ing, shine thou from a - bove; in might come and save us, thy  
 por - tion, de - spised by our foes. O Lord God Al - might - y, in  
 root - ed re - ward - ed thy care; its branch - es, like ce - dars, ma -  
 vic - tim and spoil of her foes; O turn, we be - seech thee, all

peo - ple re - store, and we shall be saved when thy face shines once more.  
 mer - cy re - store, and we shall be saved when thy face shines once more.  
 jes - tic and free, spread o - ver the moun - tains from riv - er to sea.  
 glo - ry is thine, look down in thy mer - cy and vis - it thy vine.

5. The branch of thy planting is burned and cut down,  
 brought nigh to destruction because of thy frown;  
 the man of thy right hand with wisdom endue,  
 the son of man strengthen thy pleasure to do.
6. When thou shalt revive us thy name we will praise,  
 and nevermore turning, depart from thy ways;  
 O Lord God Almighty, in mercy restore,  
 and we shall be saved when thy face shines once more.

SERMON NOTES

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**I. Introduction**

**A. The Focus of Chapter 14**

**B. The Focus of Chapter 15**

**II. Main Argument**

**A. The True Vine (v. 1)**

1. Metaphor for Israel

2. The True Vine and True Israel

**B. Removing the Fruitless (vv. 1b-2, 6)**

1. The Work of the Father

2. Branches Cut Off

3. The True Branches

**C. Nurturing the Flawed and Fruitful (vv. 2-4)**

1. Comfort

2. Fruit

3. Pruning

4. Fruitful People

### **III. Conclusion**

\*The Hymn of Commitment No. 221 .....“Lo, How a Rose”

\*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.*

221

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*  
Is. 11:1

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der  
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I  
3. The shep - herds heard the sto - ry, pro - claimed by  
4. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness  
5. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our

stem hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing,  
have in mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it,  
• an - gels bright, how Christ, the Lord of glo - ry,  
fills the air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor  
hu - man woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry,

as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright,  
the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right  
• was born on earth this night. To Beth - le - hem they sped  
the dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God;  
who dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we pray,

a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
• and in the man - ger found him, as an - gel her - alds said.  
from sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
to the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

German hymn, ca. 1500  
St. 1-2 tr. by Theodore Baker, 1894  
St. 3-4 tr. by Harriett R. Spaeth, 1875  
St. 5 tr. by John C. Mattes, 1914

ES IST EIN ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.  
German melody, 15th cent.  
Arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1609; alt.



# 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.*

## 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 FPFO Sermon Podcast  
will be moving to a new  
platform in 2024.  
Please subscribe!



iTunes

# ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 24, 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!
- + Some of the young pianists in the congregation will be offering the prelude for evening worship tonight. You may wish to arrive earlier than normal to hear them.
- + Volunteers are needed for nursery duty for evening worship. Please see Mary Lou Wilson if you are willing to help.
- + 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.
- + 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.

## 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 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. 24: E. Wilson & T. Keller

Dec. 31 H. Rowan & C. Rowan