

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD’S DAY | SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 | 10:45 A.M.

The Announcements

The Prelude

***The Call to Worship Psalm 95:1-5**

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.

***The Psalm of Praise “With Joy Let Us Sing to the Lord” (pg. 4-5)**

*The Prayer of Adoration

***The Confession of Faith..... Westminster Larger Catechism Q & A 74**

Q. 74. *What is adoption?*

A. Adoption is an act of the free grace of God, in and for His only Son Jesus Christ, whereby all those that are justified are received into the number of His children, have His name put upon them, the Spirit of His Son given to them, are under His fatherly care and dispensations, admitted to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God, made heirs of all the promises, and fellow-heirs with Christ in glory.

The Call to Confession of Sin.....1 John 3:1-6

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that He appeared in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him.

The Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Almighty God, we marvel at the lavish love You have bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God—and that is what we are. Yet, we confess that we have often lived as strangers to Your love and disobedient to Your calling. Lord, we confess that we have not lived as Your pure children. We have entertained the values of this broken world rather than fixing our hope on the purity of Christ. We admit, O God, that we have sinned and tolerated lawlessness in our hearts, acting as though Your moral laws do not matter. Forgive us for the times we have looked upon sin lightly, forgetting that Jesus appeared to take away our sins and that in Him there is no sin. Cleanse us from our stubborn pride, our hidden resentments, and our daily compromises with darkness that blind us from seeing You clearly. Lord, have mercy on us. Do not leave us in our rebellion, but transform us by Your grace. Fix our eyes upon Your Son so that we may walk in righteousness, just as He is righteous. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

The Silent Confession of Sin

The Assurance of Pardon.....Romans 8:31-34

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the One who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

***The Hymn of Thanks No. 520“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”**

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

The Offering and Encouragement to Give..... I Timothy 6:17-19

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

The Old Testament Reading.....Numbers 5:11-6:27

The Great Prayer.....RE Nathan Bowers

***Hymn of Preparation No. 94.....“How Firm A Foundation”**

~ God Speaks to Us in His Word ~

The Sermon Rev. Jim Richter

“Children and Heirs of God” | Romans 8:11-17 | Pg. 888

***Hymn of Response No. 525“A Child of the King”**

***The Benediction**

***The Response No. 731..... “Doxology”**

Psalm 33

1. ¹With joy let us sing to the LORD, all you right - eous,
 2. ⁶The LORD by his word has cre - a - ted the heav - ens;
 3. ¹⁰The LORD brings to noth - ing the plans of the na - tions;
 4. ¹³The LORD looks from heav - en to see all of man - kind,
 5. ¹⁸Be - hold, the LORD's eye is up - on all who trust him,

for fit - ting it is that the up - right give praise.
 and he by his breath made the stars come to be.
 • he frus - trates their coun - sel and makes their schemes fail.
¹⁴he looks from his throne on all dwell - ing on earth—
¹⁴who hope in his love, and, in awe, him re - vere.

²³And skill - ful - ly praise him with harp and with lyre;
⁷The depths of the o - cean he heaps up to - geth - er,
 • ¹¹But all that the LORD in his heart has in - tend - ed,
¹⁵all the same one who made them, who all their hearts fash - ioned,
¹⁹They trust that from death he will res - cue and save them,

make mus - ic to God, a new song to him raise.
 and puts in a store - house the waves of the sea.
 • the plans he has made, will for - ev - er pre - vail.
 who knows what they do, and con - si - ders its worth.
 and keep them all liv - ing when fam - ine comes near.

⁴For up - right and true is the word God has spo - ken;
⁸So let all the earth and its peo - ple re - vere him,
¹²The na - tion the LORD has em - braced is most bless - ed,
¹⁶The king is not saved by the strength of his ar - my;
²⁰The LORD we a - wait is our help and pro - tec - tion,

the works of the LORD his great faith - ful - ness prove.
 and in the LORD's pres - ence with awe let them stand.
 • where he is ac - know - ledged to be God a - lone;
 the sol - dier as well should trust his own might.
²¹our heart is glad, trust - ing in his ho - ly name.

⁵And he loves true righ - teous - ness, jus - tice, and judg - ment;
⁹He spoke, it was done, and con - tin - ues to stand fast;
 • this peo - ple he claims, his in - her - it - ed por - tion,
¹⁷The strength of a horse does not make res - cue cer - tain;
²²O LORD, let your cov - e - nant love be up - on us,

the ends of the earth show the LORD's stead - fast love.
 it all was ac - com - plished when he gave com - mand.
 • the ones he has cho - sen and calls as his own.
 a horse is a false hope for win - ning the fight.
 as we hold to you and the hope that we claim.

Sermon Outline
Children and Heirs of God
Romans 8:12-17

There is a flow of divine logic in Paul's letter to the Romans and in Chapter 8. Having begun by the wondrous assurance of freedom from condemnation and the Law through the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit, Paul affirmed that justification leads inevitably to sanctification, that is, that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit (vs 4). This theme of sanctification by the work of the Holy Spirit flows through the rest of the Chapter. After contrasting the lives of those who live according to the flesh with those who live according to the Spirit, Paul affirmed the indwelling reality of the presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit in believers' lives, and stressed the fact that those who live according to the flesh will be putting to death the sinful deeds of the body, the impulses, desires, and actions of the flesh. But how are we, by the Holy Spirit, to be advancing in this way of sanctification? Jesus said in John 14:21, "Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me." We love God because He first loved us (I John 4:19). Having already told us of the justifying and sanctifying grace of God, now Paul proceeds to, as it were, shower us with the personal nature of God's love to us who are led by the Spirit in Christ. Loving God more than we love sin, we grow in sanctification.

1. We are sons (children) of God. (vs. 14)
2. We have received the spirit of adoption as sons, not a spirit of slavery and fear. (vs. 15)
3. Our relationship with God is such that we cry out the intimate address "Abba, Father"! (vs. 15)
4. The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children and heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ, God's natural Son. (vs. 16-17)
5. Being an heir of God and coheir of Christ involves the condition that we suffer with Christ in order to be glorified with Him. (vs. 17) Like Christ, and now with Christ, we grow in sanctification, becoming like Christ, through suffering (Hebrews 5:8), and loving discipline (Hebrews 12:7-8).

Application question: How believing and aware are we of the freeing and compelling love of God our Father? Pray that God grips us with these blessed realities!

For Your Contemplation

Dr. Adriaan C. Neele's Charge to the Faculty, Staff, and Students of Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary at the beginning of the academic year, 2026.

Before any single spiritual exercise is named in our upcoming fall chapel sermon series—before any reflection on prayer, meditation, solitude, singing, or Sabbath rest—Christ sets one word over the whole semester. That word is *abide*. Why? Because one may grow more informed, more practiced, more disciplined—and remain a branch withering on the ground. He speaks to disciples who are ignorant, weak, and hours from denying Him—and yet believing, loving, sincere. Both sides are there—and not only for them. And yet, He calls such men not servants, but friends. He is the *true* vine. Israel was the vine, planted on a fruitful hill, hedged, cleared of stones—and it brought forth wild grapes. Christ is the vine that does not fail. Abiding is not entering; it is remaining. Union first, wrought by the Spirit through the Word; then communion, as sap flows from vine to branch. And the anchor is the second half—*and I in you*. The spiritual exercises —Word, prayer, fellowship, solitude, meditation, singing, Sabbath rest—are not inventions of piety. They are Scriptural: Daniel's fixed hours, *when ye fast*, Christ withdrawn into the wilderness, believers continuing steadfastly. But they are the exercises of a branch already in the vine. A branch does not imitate the vine; it draws from it. Pruning is undergone, not undertaken. Fruit appears; it is not produced. To be reminded, Without Me you can do nothing. But bringing forth fruits is to abide in Him—by grace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

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

- ❖ **The Lord's Supper** will be observed tonight in evening worship.
- ❖ 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 for September is small stuffed animals and small Nerf balls. 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, 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

To submit prayer requests, please email the church office or call 706-866-2521.

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

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

Nursery: **Sept. 20:** E. Wilson & L. Murphy **Sept. 27:** Sarah Wilson & A. Pinyerd