

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP | THE LORD'S DAY | NOVEMBER 17, 2024 | 10:45 A.M.

*The Call to Worship

*The Hymn of Praise No. 34.....“The God of Abraham Praise”

*The Prayer of Adoration

*The Confession of FaithThe Heidelberg Catechism No. 45

Q. What do you believe concerning “the Holy Spirit”?

A. *First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God. Second, that he is given also to me, so that, through true faith, he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits, comforts me and will remain with me forever.*

The Call to Confession.....1 Peter 3:8-17

The Prayer of Confession

Holy Lord, we have sinned times without number. We have been guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find Your mind in Your Word, and of neglect to seek You in our daily lives. Our transgressions and shortcomings present each of us with a list of accusations, but we bless You that they will not stand against us, for all have been laid on Christ. Subdue our corruptions and grant us grace to live above them. Let not the passions of the flesh nor lustings of the mind bring our spirits into subjection, but may You rule over us in liberty and power. No trial is so hard to bear as a sense of sin. If You should give us a choice to live in pleasure and keep our sins, or to have them burnt away with trial, give us sanctified affliction. Deliver us from every evil habit, everything that dims the brightness of Your grace in us, everything that prevents us taking delight in You. Then we shall bless You, God of our righteousness, for helping us to be upright.

The Silent Confession

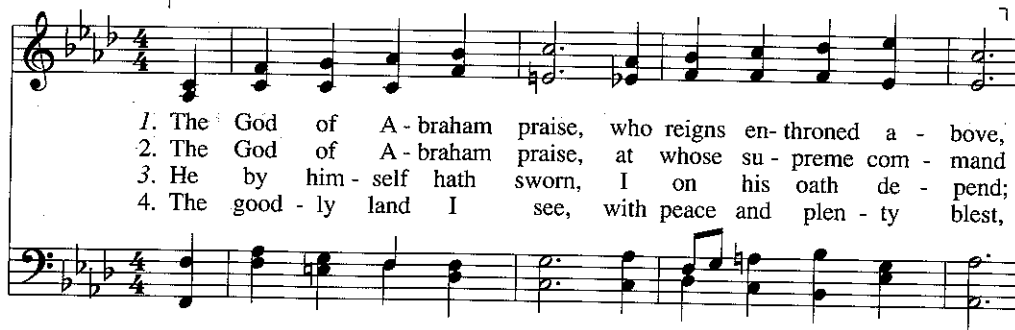
The Assurance of Pardon.....1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

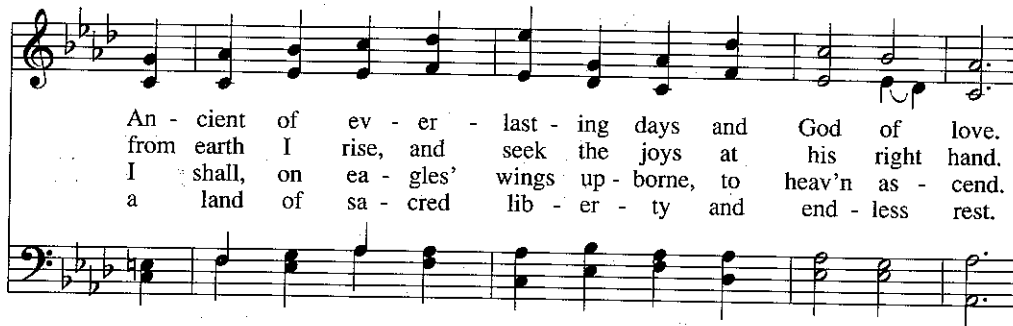
*The Hymn of Thanksgiving.....“He Will Hold Me Fast” (pages 2-3)

The God of Abraham Praise

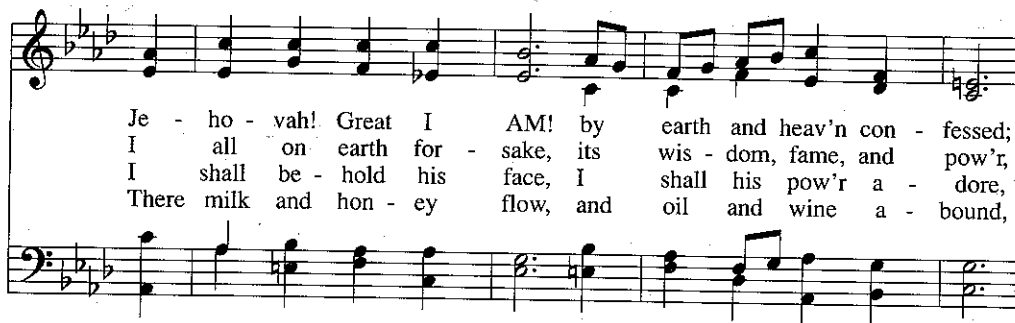
Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Heb. 11:6



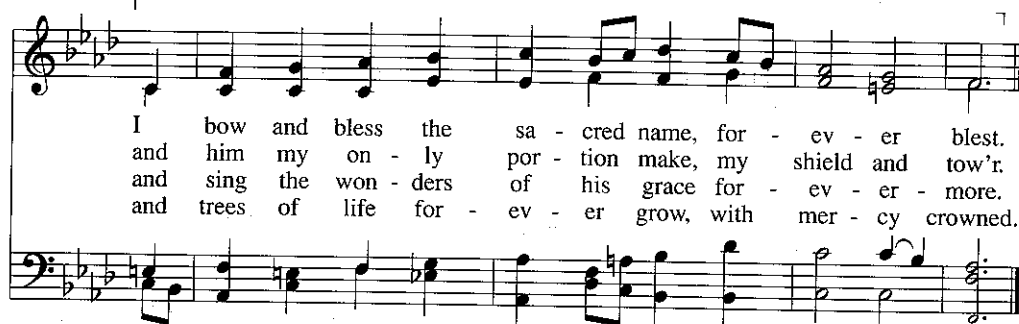
1. The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove,
 2. The God of A - braham praise, at whose su - preme com - mand
 3. He by him - self hath sworn, I on his oath de - pend;
 4. The good - ly land I see, with peace and plen - ty blest,



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days and God of love.
 from earth I rise, and seek the joys at his right hand.
 I shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and end - less rest.



Je - ho - vah! Great I AM! by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake, its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r,
 I shall be - hold his face, I shall his pow'r a - dore,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name, for - ev - er blest.
 and him my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 and sing the won - ders of his grace for - ev - er - more.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow, with mer - cy crowned.

5. There dwells the Lord our King, the Lord our Righteousness,
 triumphant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace.
 On Zion's sacred height his kingdom he maintains,
 and glorious with his saints in light forever reigns.

6. The whole triumphant host gives thanks to God on high;
 "Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" they ever cry.
 Hail, Abraham's God and mine! I join the heav'nly lays;
 all might and majesty are thine, and endless praise.

Bb

Bb/D

Eb

Eb

F

Bb

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
 2. Those He saves are His de - light, Christ will hold me fast;
 3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;

(v3:Gm7)

5

Bb

Bb/D

Eb

Eb

F

Bb

When the tempt - er would pre - vail, He will hold me fast.
 Pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, He will hold me fast.
 Just - ice has been sat - is - fied; He will hold me fast.

9

Gm

F/A

Bb

Eb

Eb

D

Gm

I could nev - er keep my hold Through life's fear - ful path;
 He'll not let my soul be lost; His Prom - is - es shall last;
 Raised with Him to end - less life, He will hold me fast

13

Gm

F/A

Bb/D

Eb

Eb

F

Bb

For my love is oft - en cold; He must hold me fast. _____
 Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. _____
 'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last! _____

Refrain

18 Eb F Gm Gm F/A Bb

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;

22 Bb Cm7 Bb/D Eb Eb F

For my Sa - vior loves me so, He will hold me

25 1. Bbadd9 Bb/D Ebadd9 Bbadd9 Bb/D

fast.

28 Ebadd9 Bb

fast.

2. D.S. al Coda

fast.

⊕ CODA

The Offering and Encouragement to Give.....1 Peter 4:7-10

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

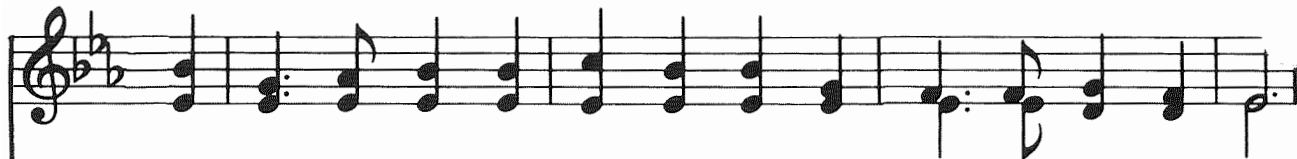
The Old Testament Reading.....Genesis 32:22-32

The Great Prayer.....Elder Wil Davis

***The Psalm No.116....."I Love the LORD" (pages 4-5)**



1. ¹I love the LORD be - cause He heard My sup - pli - cat - ing plea;
2. ⁴Then called I on Je - ho - vah's name And un - to Him did sa
3. ⁷O thou my soul, do thou re - turn To thine own qui - et rest,



²I while I live will call on Him Who bowed His ear to me.
"De - liv - er Thou my soul, O LORD, I do Thee hum - bly pray
Be - cause the LORD has dealt in grace; His boun - ty has thee bless





³The cords of death on eve - ry side En - com - passed me a - round;
⁵The LORD is gra - cious and is just; Our God will mer - cy show;
⁸Thou hast re - leased my soul from death, My eyes from tears kept free;



The sor - rows of the grave took hold; I grief and trou - ble found
⁶The LORD pre - serves the meek in heart; He saved me when brought low.
 From fall - ing Thou hast saved my feet; ⁹I live and walk with THE



The Sermon Pastor Ryan Biese

“Empowered Witness” | John 20:19-23 | p. 852 | *Light Shines in the Darkness* No. 130

SERMON NOTES

A. Peace (vv. 19-20)

1. Doors Locked (v. 19)
2. Greeting (v. 19)
3. Proof (v. 20)

B. Proclamation (v. 21)

1. Commissioned
2. Sent

C. Power (vv. 22-23)

1. Breathing (v. 22)
2. Spirit (v. 22)
3. Forgiveness (v. 23)

~ We Respond to God Speaking in His Word ~

*The Hymn of Commitment No. 217“All My Heart This Night Rejoices”

The Benediction

*The Response No. 735“The Gloria Patri”

“...For Fear of the Jews”

Making Sense of the Relationship Between the Jews & the Church

Throughout the Fourth Gospel, John brings out the growing opposition to the Kingdom of God by “the Jews.” The evangelist records some exceptionally clear statements of Jesus regarding the Jews, perhaps most poignantly in John 8 in which Jesus says to the Jews: *You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him...* (John 8:44). As such John's Gospel is often accused of being “anti-semitic” because of the way in which it highlights the ferocious hostility of the Jews to God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

But the assertion that John, a semite, was antisemitic is absurd; he was a Jew. One of the motivating factors for John's writing is to inflame Christian zeal to bring the gospel of Christ to the Jews, to call them to faith and repentance and to embrace the offspring of Abraham who alone brings blessing to all the families of the earth.

One of the reasons John highlights both the hostility of the Jews and the clear statements of Jesus is to emphasize one cannot remain merely a Jew in order to enter the Kingdom of God, but one must come to God through Christ.

POLITICAL CONCERNS: *Christian Support for the Jewish State*

In recent decades a false teaching has crept into the Church that Christians have a biblical imperative to support the Jews or even the Jewish State because God has a special purpose for the Jews alongside the Church. This new doctrine is especially curious given that there was no Jewish State prior to the declaration of such in 1948. We ought to approach any new ideas with great skepticism.

Nonetheless, Christians do have a duty to reject antisemitism and hatred, abuse, and/or discrimination of all people on the basis of their ethnicity. Recent acts of terror and violence by Muslims directed toward the Jews should enflame our sympathy toward the Jews as our neighbors. But whether Christians support the Jewish State is a separate, political question: there is no biblical mandate.

BIBLICAL BALANCE: *The Israel of God*

The status of the Jews and the duty or relationship of the Church to the physical descendants of Jacob is complicated and requires some nuance, but can be summarized under four points.

First: There is no future for Israel outside of the Lord Jesus Christ. The True Israel, the “Israel of God” is all those who have been made new creations in Christ regardless of ancestry or family makeup (Gal. 6:15-16).

Second: The Jews are not friends of the Church nor do they have a special relationship with God. While the Jews are our neighbors (Luke 10:36), as regards the gospel, the Jews are “enemies” (Rom 11:28), since they refuse to submit to Christ.

Third: Those who refuse to come to Christ are not really “Jews” in anything but name and “not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel” (Rom 9:6), but in fact are a “synagogue of Satan” (Rev. 2:9, cf. John 8:44ff). Belonging to an ethnic group or family was never a sufficient basis for approaching God (Lev. 10) even though “salvation is from the Jews” (John 4:22).

Fourth: The day is coming when the Jews will be so characterized by vibrant faith in Christ, since “the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable” (Rom 11:29). And on that day “all Israel will be saved” (Rom 11:26). That day will be glorious and like a resurrection from the dead (Rom 11:15).

EVANGELISM: *The Church's Duty*

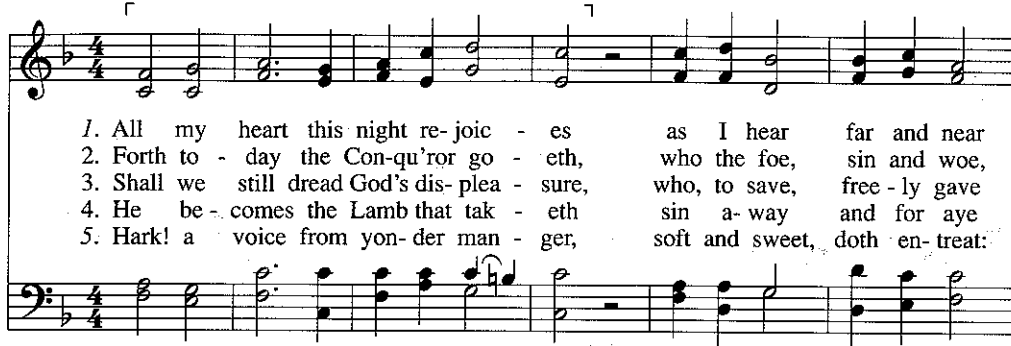
There are many issues in current events regarding the Jewish State and the Jews and those questions may be left to political pundits to answer and Christians must weigh such matters with Christian prudence. But the Scripture is unequivocally clear that there is no biblical imperative for God's people to support a homeland for the Jews or show any preference to the Jews over other ethnic groups much less that God has a special, separate destiny for the Jews apart from Christ's Church.

The Scripture is equally clear the Church's duty toward the Jews is to call them to faith and repentance in Christ, to embrace the advantages (Rom 3:1) they have from God which all find their culmination in Jesus, the Son of David and Son of God who was crucified by Pontius Pilate for our sins and raised for our justification on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures (Rom 4:25, I Cor 15:4-5).

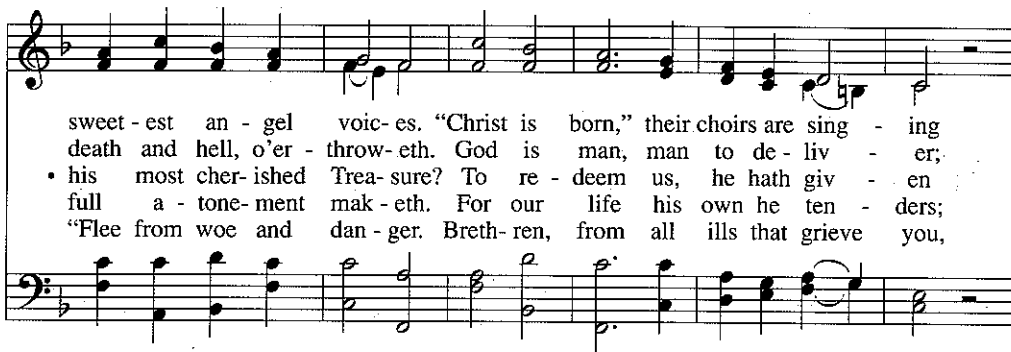
217

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory.
John 1:14



1. All my heart this night re-joic - es as I hear far and near
2. Forth to - day the Con-qu'ror go - eth, who the foe, sin and woe,
3. Shall we still dread God's dis-plea - sure, who, to save, free - ly gave
4. He be - comes the Lamb that tak - eth sin a - way and for aye
5. Hark! a voice from yon - der man - ger, soft and sweet, doth en - treat:



sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born," their choirs are sing - ing
death and hell, o'er - throw - eth. God is man, man to de - liv - er;
• his most cher - ished Trea - sure? To re - deem us, he hath giv - en
full a - tone - ment mak - eth. For our life his own he ten - ders;
"Flee from woe and dan - ger. Breth - ren, from all ills that grieve you,



till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
his dear Son now is one with our blood for - ev - er.
• his own Son from the throne of his might in heav - en.
and our race, by his grace, meet for glo - ry ren - ders.
you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."

6. Come, then, banish all your sadness,
one and all, great and small;
come with songs of gladness.
Love him who with love is glowing;
hail the star, near and far
light and joy bestowing.

7. Dearest Lord, thee will I cherish.
Though my breath fail in death,
yet I shall not perish,
but with thee abide forever
there on high, in that joy
which can vanish never.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2024

Announcements are due 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and must be **emailed** to office@fpfo.org.

- + Please answer God's call to worship this evening with us at 6:00 p.m. We will have our normal hymn sing to begin worship, so be ready with your requests! The Lord's Supper will be observed as part of worship tonight as well.
- + The next Joint Officer Meeting will be November 20 at 6:30 p.m.; the Women in the Church will meet in the library at that time as well.
- + The Winter "Over Sixties" Lunch will be Dec. 9 at 11:00 a.m. A musical program will follow. Please RSVP to Diana Bowers or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.
- + Operation Christmas Child will be collecting wash cloths and water bottles during the month of November.
- + Andrew Keller is here this week to take pictures for the new member directory. All church members are encouraged to participate.
- + Church Decorating Party: Saturday, November 30 at 10:00 a.m. Lunch provided!

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 box at the auditorium doors, mailing a check to the church office, or online: FPFO.org/give

To record your worship with us or submit prayer requests, please scan the QR code with your phone, 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

5:00 p.m. Sermon Broadcast

WAAK 94.7 FM

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

(excluding First Sundays)

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

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

Nursery: Nov. 17: B. Rowan & M. Tuggle

Nov. 24: H. Rowan & E. Wilson