

THE LORD'S DAY

The Second Day of August, Two Thousand Nine
MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

Presiding Minister — The Reverend Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas

Assisting Minister — The Reverend Mr. Nathan D. Shurden
Minister of Discipleship

At the time of the Greetings and Announcements, and during the Prelude, the congregation is invited to a season of silent and reverent preparation for corporate worship.

The Greetings and Announcements (8:20 and 10:50 a.m.)

The Prelude — "Sarabanda e Aria"Evaristo Felice Dall'Alaco
Nan Whitney, Violin; Nancy Bateman, Cello

The Introit — "Who is on the Lord's Side?"Caradog Roberts

The Call to Worship

‡ **The Hymn of Praise No. 55** — "To God Be the Glory"

‡ **The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

The Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 46 (Pew Bible page 607)

‡ **The Response No. 4** — "All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above" (Stanza 5)

"Ye who confess Christ's holy name, to God give praise and glory!
Ye who the Father's pow'r proclaim, to God give praise and glory!
All idols underfoot be trod, the Lord is God! The Lord is God!
To God all praise and glory!"

The Morning Prayer

‡ **The Hymn No. 128** — "God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Anthem — "O How Amiable Are Thy Dwellings"R. Vaughan Williams

"O how amiable are Thy dwellings, Thou Lord of Hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord:
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,
And the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
Even Thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house:
They will be always praising Thee.
The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us.
Prosper Thou the work of our hands upon us.
O prosper Thou our handiwork.
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home."

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Romans 8:28-30 (Pew Bible page 944)

The Sermon — *The Best Chapter in the Bible*: "Golden Chain"Dr. Thomas

‡ **The Hymn of Response No. 705** — "I Know Whom I Have Believed"

‡ **The Benediction**

‡ **The Congregational Response** — "Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me."

The Postlude — "Carillon Toccata"Douglas Wagner

‡ Congregation standing

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

Presiding Minister — The Reverend Mr. William F. Joseph III

Assisting Minister — The Reverend Mr. Brister H. Ware

Minister of Pastoral Care

The Announcements and Words of Preparation (5:50 p.m.)

The Prelude — "Grazioso"Georg Phillip Telemann
William Wymond, Organist

The Peru Mission Report

The Call to Worship

‡ **The Psalm of Praise No. 6** — "O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord" (Psalm 103)

‡ **The Invocation**

The Evening Hymn No. 709 — "Now I Belong to Jesus"

**The Recognition of Recitation of The *Children's Catechism* and
The *Shorter Catechism***

***The Greetings**

The Evening Prayer — Ruling Elder Bill Payne

The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory — "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

Allen Burrows, Sara Ryburn Mealer and Kristi Jordan

The Young Children's Devotional

The Song No. 9 — "All You That Fear Jehovah's Name" (Stanzas 1 and 3)

The *Children's Catechism* No. 83

Q. "What does the second commandment tell us to do?"

A. "To worship God in the way He tells us and not with images or idols."

The Scripture — Deuteronomy 4:15-19; Isaiah 53:5; Mark 4:35-41; John 4:24;
1 John 3:2-3, 5:21

The MeditationMr. Ryan Biese, Senior Minister's Intern

The Prayer(The children dismissed following the prayer)

‡ **The Hymn No. 501** — "Just As I Am, without One Plea" (Stanzas 1-5)

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — John 9 (Pew Bible pages 895-896)

The Sermon — *Encounters with Jesus: "A Blind Man"*Mr. Joseph

‡ **The Benediction and Response No. 501** — "Just As I Am, without One Plea"
(Stanza 6)

"Just as I am, Thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

The Postlude — "We Praise Thee and Adore Thee"Heinrich Scheidemann

*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

Welcome
Visitors

We are delighted to have you in our worship. May we heartily worship and praise God together! If you would like information about joining this church, we cordially invite you to an informal meeting in the Session Room following the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services.

A Guide to the Evening Service

The Sermon

When is the restoration of sight more than a medical procedure? When it is Jesus healing the blind! Sight is restored, but John wants us to see more than the physical seeing. Here is a man who once was doubly blind but who can now "see" Jesus, not just with his physical eyes, but with the eyes of faith. Meanwhile, those who have perfectly functioning eyes remain blind in the most disastrous way. They still cannot "see" Jesus.

The Catechism Recognition

Tonight, we are delighted to be able to acknowledge the memorization of the catechism. It just so happens that one father set out to memorize *The Shorter Catechism* as his son was learning *The Children's Catechism*, and tonight we acknowledge their successful recitations. We are strongly committed to catechizing (teaching, in this case by using a format of questions and answers) as a goal of discipleship and a key component to the growth in grace and the knowledge of the truth. The catechism is a simple synopsis of Bible doctrine, in a question and answer format. We have been using *The Children's Catechism* as the basis of the Children's Devotionals on Sunday evenings because it is a helpful way of communicating the truths of the gospel to our children.

The Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord

The words come from the 1912 Psalter, a rendition of Psalm 103. The tune is by James Walsh, who although born in England, died in Wales! He was also, for awhile, the conductor of the Bolton Philharmonic Orchestra!

How often have saints in Scotland sung this Psalm in days when they celebrated the Lord's Supper. It is thereby specially known in our land. It is connected also with a remarkable case in the days of John Knox. Elizabeth Adamson, a woman who attended on his preaching, "because he more fully opened the fountain of God's mercies than others did," was led to Christ and to rest, on hearing this Psalm, after enduring such agony of soul that she said, concerning racking pains of body, "A thousand years of this torment, and ten times more joined," are not to be compared to a quarter of an hour of my soul's trouble. She asked for this Psalm again before departing: "It was in receiving it that my troubled soul first tasted God's mercy, which is now sweeter to me than if all the kingdoms of the earth were given me to possess." Andrew A. Bonar.

Now I Belong to Jesus

This congregational favorite is a mid-twentieth century hymn, introduced to this church in Dr. Miller's day. In it we glory in the fact that Jesus has bought us and owns us, and all the assuring consequences of that great redemptive reality.

Just As I Am

Though many will associate this hymn with the Baptist church and "altar calls," it was written by an Anglican (Episcopalian) after a French Reformed minister had been instrumental in leading her to Christ. Miss Charlotte Elliott was visiting some friends in the West End of London and there met the eminent minister, Cesar Malan. While seated at supper, the minister said he hoped that she was a Christian. She took offense at this and replied that she would rather not discuss that question. Dr. Malan said that he was sorry if he had offended her, that he always liked to speak a word for his Master, and that he hoped that the young lady would some day become a worker for Christ. When they met again at the home of a mutual friend, three weeks later, Miss Elliott told the minister that ever since he had spoken to her she had been trying to find her Saviour, and that she now wished him to tell her how to come to Christ. "Just come to him as you are," Dr. Malan said. This she did, and went away rejoicing. Shortly afterward she wrote this hymn.

A Guide to the Morning Service

The Sermon

What can be said about the verses of our sermon this morning? Verse 28 is perhaps one of the best known verses in all of Scripture, and the encouragements continue into verses 29 and 30. Here contains what is frequently called "The Golden Chain," a brief list of the interconnected pieces that form our salvation.

The Old Testament Reading

This is another passage pitting the One True God against all contenders.

The Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

To God Be the Glory

Though blind from the age of six weeks, Fanny Crosby said: "It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me." In her lifetime, Fanny Crosby was one of the best known women in the United States. To this day, the vast majority of American hymnals contain her work which amounted to some 8,000 hymns.

This hymn's tune was composed by Crosby's friend and associate William Howard Doane (1832-1915). Doane composed over 2200 hymn tunes before his death and was only sixteen when he wrote his first musical piece. He professed faith in Jesus Christ his senior year in high school. He worked on his father's cotton plantation for a while, and eventually became president of a machinery plant in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the Sunday school superintendent and choir director of the Mount Auburn Baptist Church in Cincinnati for many years.

All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

We use the fifth stanza of this hymn as our response to this reading in Isaiah. "All idols underfoot be trod; the Lord is God, the Lord is God!"

God Moves In a Mysterious Way

This hymn is originally found in Olney Hymns under the title "Conflict: Light shining out of Darkness." The hymnologist Bailey says: "The word majestic best describes this hymn. It reveals at work in the world a God who preserves the grandeur of the ancient Jehovah and the personal concern of the Christian's Father. Out of the Old Testament come the pictures of stanzas 1 and 2: the Lord striding over the oceans and riding the storm clouds (2 Sam 22: 7-20) ; from Job the mines hidden in the earth and the treasures out of which he draws his gifts for men (Job 28: 1-3; 38:22-23). Then in stanzas 3 to 6, the poet addresses comforting words to the fearful, bids them remember their limitations of understanding, and boldly asserts his faith in the goodness of God in spite of all appearances. We do not know under what circumstances Cowper wrote this hymn. It is somehow connected with his mental breakdown in 1773 when he made an attempt upon his life; probably written about six months afterward in 1774 when the cloud had lifted somewhat. An unverified story has it that, resolved to drown himself in the river Ouse at a spot about three miles out of town, he called a cab and told the driver to take him to the place. For some reason — perhaps purposely — the driver could not find the spot, and after coursing about for an hour deposited the poet again at his own door. Even though the story may be fiction, the title of the hymn holds true, 'Light shining out of darkness.' This is the last hymn Cowper ever wrote."

I Know Whom I Have Believed

Based on Paul's final word to the church in 2 Timothy 1:12, this hymn by Daniel Whittle is full of assurance and joy. Whittle was a major in the Civil War (yes, for many of you he was on the wrong side!). Grace abounds in the strangest of places, and Whittle, who had lost his right arm, ended up in a prisoner of war camp. It was there that he found a New Testament. Having been seen reading the New Testament he was called upon one evening to visit a dying man's bedside in order to pray with him. Whittle explains:

"I dropped on my knees and held the boy's hand in mine. In a few broken words I confessed my sins and asked Christ to forgive me. I believed right there that He did forgive me. I then prayed earnestly for the boy. He became quiet and pressed my hand as I prayed and pleaded God's promises. When I arose from my knees, he was dead. A look of peace had come over his troubled face, and I cannot but believe that God who used him to bring me to the Saviour, used me to lead him to trust Christ's precious blood and find pardon. I hope to meet him in heaven."

FPC THIS WEEK

SUNDAY • August 2, 2009

Sunday

Pre-Service Announcements — 8:20 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Hymns of the Faith Radio Program — 9:00 a.m. on
WJNT 1180 AM
Prayer for Worship Service — 9:00 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. in
M133
Sunday School — 9:40 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. in various locations
Pre-Service Announcements — 10:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary
New Members Received — 5:00 p.m. in PH
WIC Prayer Group — 5:00 p.m. in the Parlor
Pre-Service Announcements — 5:50 p.m. in the Sanctuary
First - Third Grade Catechism Class — 6:30 p.m. (dismissed
from Sanctuary to M133)
Four- and Five-Year-Olds Scripture Memory Class —
6:30 p.m. (dismissed from Sanctuary to M135)
Senior High Insight — 7:30 p.m. in the home of
Jay Vise (2435 Sand Ridge Drive)
College Open Gym Night — 7:30 p.m. in Gym

Monday

Executive Diaconate Committee — 11:45 a.m. in MH
Student Ministry Moms' Prayer Group — 1:30 p.m. in
YH

Tuesday

Staff Meeting — 9:00 a.m. in HC
Deacon Food Service Committee — 12:00 p.m. in MH
Management Committee — 5:30 p.m. in PH

Wednesday

Benevolence Committee — 5:00 p.m. in WH204
Family Night Supper — 5:00 p.m. in MH
Junior High Small Groups — 5:00 p.m. in YH
Children's Activities — 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. on the Playground/
Gym
The Choir — 5:50 p.m. in MS
Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer Meeting — 6:30 p.m. in
LH
Children's Classes — 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in various rooms as
posted (first floor of SC)
Senior High Small Groups — 7:45 p.m. in YH

Thursday

Romans Bible Study Prayer Time — 9:45 a.m. in WH202

Friday

No Activities Scheduled

Saturday

Men's Prayer Breakfast — 7:30 a.m. in MH

CH - College House
LH - Lowe Hall
M - Main Floor
MCR - Ministers'
Conference Room

MH - Miller Hall
MS - Music Suite
PH - Patterson Hall
YH - Youth House
SC - Study Center

WH - Westminster Hall
HC - Hutton Chapel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

II THESSALONIANS 3:1

"Finally, brethren, pray for us...." — Our FPC missionaries for today to lift up in prayer: Dr. Jill and Dr. Judy, educators with MTW in East Asia

LADIES FALL BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS – HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

- 1 Peter** — Thursdays from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. (small groups and large group lecture) Teacher: Tricia Walters
Registration: Contact Ann Bowling at 601-856-7749 or acb132@bellsouth.net
First day of study: September 3
- Elijah/Elisha** — Thursdays from 9:45 - 11:00 a.m. (large group lecture only)
Teacher: Laura Husband
Registration: Contact Marty May at 601-856-6649 or margaretannmay@comcast.net
First day of study: September 10
- MOMS - 1 Corinthians** — Wednesdays from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. (small groups and large group lecture)
Teacher: Jane Wiggins
Registration: Call Beginning August 1: Laura Barbour at 601-366-3073
First day of study: September 9
- Monthly Circles - Beatitudes** — 2nd Week of the Month on either Monday or Tuesday
For more information: Contact Ashley Hall at 601-973-9118
First study: The week of September 14

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS HELPERS NEEDED

If you are interested in helping with our Children's Choir program this fall, please contact Emily Whitaker at 601-352-6543 as soon as possible. We are looking forward to another fantastic year! Anyone of any age is welcome (and needed) to assist. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings beginning August 5 from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Pianists and assistants are needed.

ATTENTION - 7TH AND 8TH GRADE GIRLS

We are pleased to announce the formation of a choral group to be called "*Legacy*." Under the direction of Marsha Glover, the group welcomes 7th and 8th grade girls to participate. The purpose of *Legacy* is to offer our girls the more advanced training and singing opportunities that are afforded by groups of this kind. There will be no charge. *Legacy* will meet on Tuesday afternoons in the Music Suite from 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. beginning September 1, 2009. Auditions will be held sometime after the middle of August (TBA). All interested girls are encouraged to audition.

ELIJAH!

FPC Choir

Sunday, August 30, 2009

at 6:00 p.m.

Discipleship Groups

Fall 2009

Beginning: Wednesday, August 26

For the past five years, First Presbyterian Church has invested in the lives of its members by offering and encouraging participation in discipleship groups. These small groups meet on Wednesday evenings following the fellowship dinner and emphasize personal growth, relationship building, and accountability.

We have been very encouraged by the response to this ministry and want to encourage those not involved to prayerfully consider joining one of these small groups. Our goal is discipleship and growth in grace. With the busyness of our world, we need to take time to stop, listen, pray, and wrestle with issues of spiritual growth together.

The prophet Jeremiah reminds us of the importance of this growth process: "Thus says the Lord: 'Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,' declares the Lord."

(Jer. 9:23-24).

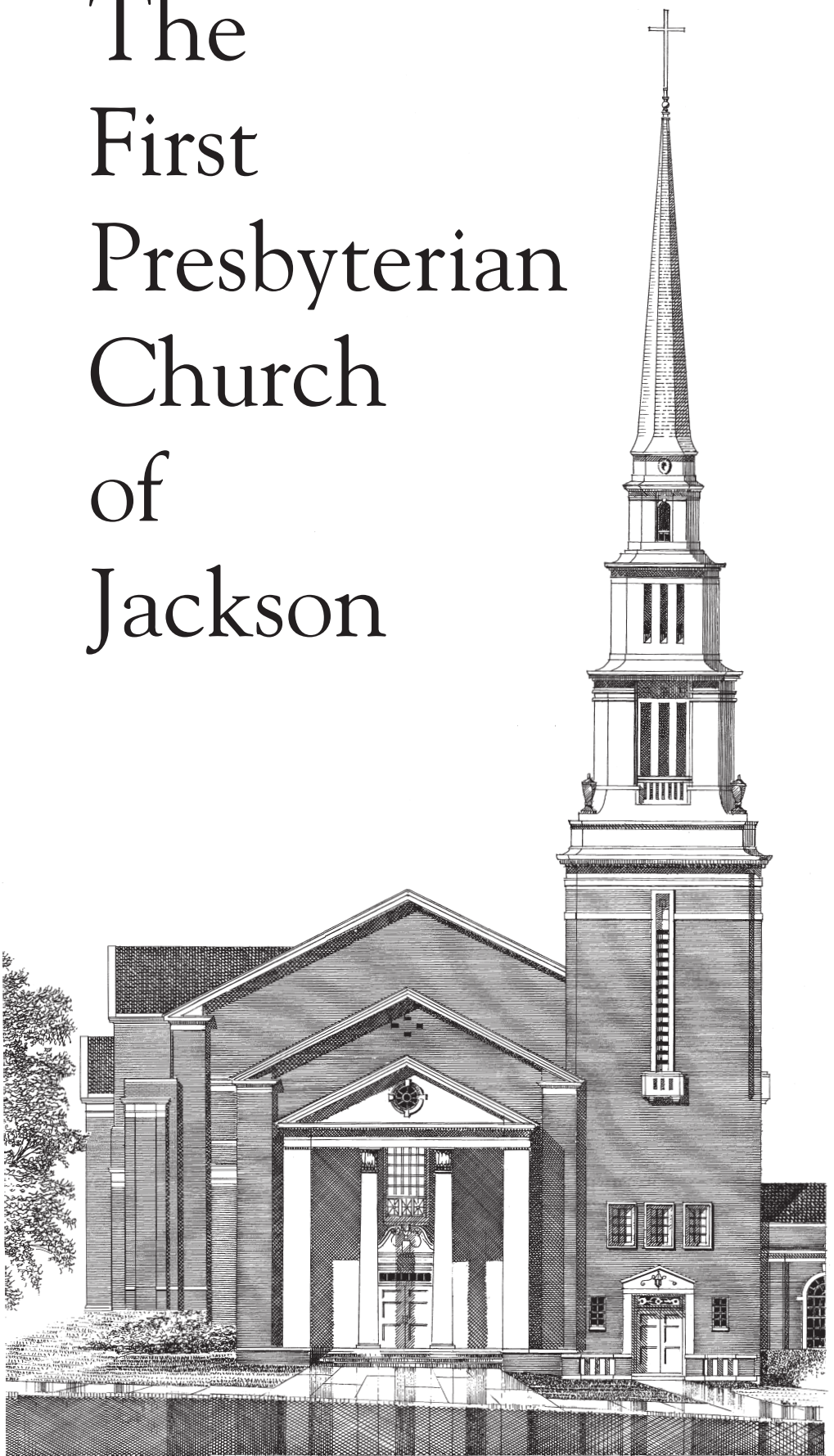
If you are not involved in our Wednesday evening discipleship groups, now is the time to join. A number of book study options will be available, and childcare is provided.

To sign-up, call or email Shannon Craft in the Discipleship Office and you will be connected to a group.

601-326-9243 or shannonc@fpcjackson.org

DEADLINE – MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2009

The
First
Presbyterian
Church
of
Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”