

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Fifteenth Day of March, Two Thousand Nine  
MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

Senior Minister — The Reverend Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III  
Assisting Minister — The Reverend Mr. William F. Joseph III  
Minister of Congregational Care

*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** — "What Wondrous Love Is This" .....Craig Phillips  
Connie S. Wadsworth, Organist

**The Introit** — "Rejoice, All People, Homage Give" (Psalm 47:1).....Pinehurst

**The Call to Worship**

‡ **The Psalm of Praise No. 57** — "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul"  
(Psalm 146)

‡ **The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

**The Old Testament Reading** — Isaiah 30 (Pew Bible pages 590-592)

**The Sacrament of Baptism**

The Words of Institution

The Introduction of the Covenant Children and their Families

The Biblical Promise

The Questions to the Parents and Congregation

The Prayer of Consecration

The Baptism

The Baptismal Benediction

**The Congregational Response No. 413** — "Our Children, Lord, in Faith and Prayer"  
"Our children, Lord, in faith and pray'r, we now devote to Thee;  
Let them Thy cov'nant mercies share, and Thy Salvation see.  
In early days their hearts secure from worldly snares, we pray,  
O let them to the end endure in every righteous way."

**The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

**The Anthem** — "Death Shall Not Destroy My Comfort" .....Mack Wilberg  
With Kathryn Edwards, Pianist

"Death shall not destroy my comfort, Christ shall guide me thro' the gloom;  
Down He'll send some heavenly convoy to escort my spirit home.  
Oh, hallelujah! How I love my Savior. Oh, hallelujah! That I do; Oh, hallelujah!  
How I love my Savior! Mourners, you may love Him too.  
Jordan's stream shall not o'erflow me, while my Savior's by my side;  
Canaan, lies before me! Soon I'll cross the swelling tide.

Oh, hallelujah!....

See the happy spirits waiting, on the banks beyond the stream!

Sweet responses still repeating, "Jesus, Jesus!" is their theme.

Oh, hallelujah!...."

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**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Reading of Holy Scripture** — Luke 3:1-20 (Pew Bible pages 858-859)

**The Sermon** — "John Came Preaching...Repentance" .....Dr. Duncan

‡ **The Hymn of Response No. 509** — "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

‡ **The Benediction**

**The Response** — "God Be with You 'til We Meet Again" .....Tomer

**The Postlude** — "On Jordan's Banks the Baptists Cry" .....David Cherwien

\*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

# EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

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

Assisting Minister — The Reverend Mr. Brister H. Ware

Minister of Pastoral Care

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

**The Prelude** — "Andante" .....Ennio Morricone  
William Wymond, Organist

**The Call to Worship**

‡ **The Hymn of Praise No. 455** — "And Can It Be That I Should Gain"

‡ **The Invocation**

**The Evening Hymn** — "When Trials Come" (See Evening Guide)

\* **The Greetings**

**The Evening Prayer** — Ruling Elder Bryant Boswell

**The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

**The Offertory** — "How Can I Keep From Singing"  
Kristi Jordan and Allen Burrows

**The Young Children's Devotional**

The Hymn No. 647 — "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" (Stz. 1, 3, 4)

*The Children's Catechism* No. 65

Q. "What are they?"

A. "The works of the prophet, priest, and king."

The Scripture - John 14:6, 18:37; Acts 3:11-26; Hebrews 7:25-28

The Meditation.....Dr. Ligon Duncan, Senior Minister

The Prayer .....(The children dismissed following the prayer)

‡ **The Hymn No. 94** — "How Firm a Foundation" (Stanzas 1-5)

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Reading of Holy Scripture** — 1 Samuel 2:1-11 (Pew Bible pages 225-226)

**The Sermon** — "Rejoicing in the Lord" .....Dr. Thomas

‡ **The Benediction and Response No. 94** — "How Firm a Foundation" (Stanza 6)

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

**The Postlude** — "As He Promised to Our Forefathers" .....J.S. Bach

\*The ushers may seat latecomers

‡Congregation standing

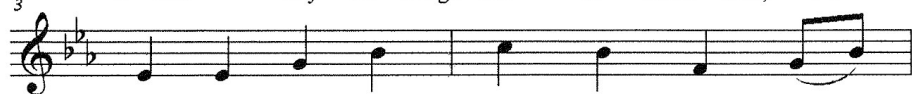
Welcome  
Visitors

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.

# When Trials Come



1. When tri - als come, no long - er fear, For  
 2. With - in the night I know Your peace; The  
 3. I turn to wis - dom not my own For  
 4. When I am wea - ry with the cost, I  
 5. One day all things will be made new; I'll



in the pain our God draws near To  
 breath of God brings strength to me, And  
 ev - 'ry bat - tle You have known. My  
 see the tri - umph of the cross; So  
 see the hope You called me to, And



fire a faith worth more than gold, \_\_\_ And there His  
 new each morn - ing mer - cy flows \_\_\_ As treas - ures  
 con - fi - dence will rest in You; \_\_\_ Your love en -  
 in its shad - ow, I shall run \_\_\_ Till He com -  
 in Your king - dom, paved with gold, \_\_\_ I'll praise Your



faith - ful - ness is told; And there His  
 of the dark - ness grow, As treas - ures  
 dures; Your ways are good. Your love en -  
 pletes the work be - gun, Till He com -  
 faith - ful - ness of old; I'll praise Your



faith - ful - ness is told.  
 of the dark - ness grow.  
 dures; Your ways are good.  
 pletes the work be - gun.  
 faith - ful - ness of old.

# A Guide to the Morning Service

## The Sacrament of Baptism

We have the privilege of worshipping in word and sacrament this morning, as the new covenant ordinance of baptism is administered. Baptism is a sign of a covenant promise of God to His people, directly instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, in which Jesus has directed that water is to be applied, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to represent to us and assure us of the glorious realities of union with Christ, forgiveness of sins by His blood, regeneration by His Holy Spirit, our adoption, and our hope of resurrection to everlasting life. By baptism, the recipients are solemnly, publicly admitted into the visible church, and enter into an open and professed engagement to be wholly and only the Lord's.

At First Presbyterian Church, we baptize the children of believers as well as adult professing believers who have not been previously baptized, in accordance with Scripture. We believe that the Bible teaches that baptism is a *new covenant sign*. What we mean by that is baptism *points to and confirms* the gracious saving promise of God to His people and its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. It is to be administered to believers and their children, as can be seen from Genesis 17, Matthew 28, Colossians 2, 1 Corinthians 7, and Acts 16.

Let's elaborate on that. We believe that Christian baptism is (1) **commanded by Christ** in Matthew 28 ("Go...make disciples...baptizing and...teaching them"). We also believe that (2) it is **to be applied to believers** as we see in Acts 8 "Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning to see from Scripture, he preached Jesus to him. As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?' And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him". (3) It is **to be administered to believers and their children**, because God has made a promise to believers and their children in both Old and New Testaments (Genesis 17, Acts 2), and has given signs of that promise in both Old and New Testaments (Genesis 17, Matthew 28, Acts 2), therefore, we believe that the Bible clearly teaches that the new covenant sign of the promise that is given to believers and their children ought to be given to believers and their children (and not to believers only).

When we baptize adult believers (who have never before been baptized), we are publicly recognizing their credible profession of faith and their status as disciples of Jesus Christ, through the means of baptism and confession of faith (see Acts 2:38, 8:35-37, Romans 10:9), and so it is our great joy and privilege from time to time, to hear new Christians profess their trust in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Savior of sinners, as He is offered in the gospel, and to see them receive the mark of membership in the covenant community.

Furthermore, every time we witness a baptism, all of us who have already been baptized are to meditate on the blessings that it represents and confirms. Our *Larger Catechism* helps us to know how to do this, when it says: "The needful but much neglected duty of improving our Baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others; by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein; by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements; by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament; by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace; and by endeavoring to live by faith, to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness, as those that have therein given up their names to Christ; and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body."

# FPC THIS WEEK

SUNDAY • March 15, 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  
**Inquirers Class** — 9:40 a.m. in M133  
**Pre-Service Announcements** — 10:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
**Young Adults Prayer Time** — 5:00 p.m. in YH  
**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)  
**No Senior High Insight**

## Monday

**WIC Circle 14** — 12:00 p.m. in MH

## Tuesday

**Men's Bible Study** — 6:30 p.m. in MH  
**Staff Meeting** — 9:00 a.m. in HC

## Wednesday

**Family Night Supper** — 5:00 p.m. in MH  
**Junior High Small Groups** — 5:00 p.m. in YH  
**Children's Activities** — 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on the Playground  
**The Choir** — 5:50 p.m. in MS  
**Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer Meeting** — 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
**Discipleship Groups** — 6:30 p.m. in SC/WH/PH

## Thursday

**Romans Bible Study** — 9:45 a.m. in WH202  
**MTW Committee** — 12:00 p.m. in MH

## 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: Gary and Linda Johnson, MTW, Beckhemsvagen 20 4tr. 315, SE-573 42, Tranas Sweden. Email address: garyglenjohnson@yahoo.com

## FAITH PROMISE FOR MISSIONS

As of Sunday, March 8, 267 cards were received for a total of \$716,914.40. If you have not turned in your Faith Promise, we encourage you to bring it this Sunday and place it in the regular offering plate as an act of worship.

## PROS

March PROS will meet Thursday, March 26, at 11:00 a.m. in Miller Hall. We will have the pleasure of hearing our own Day School's 5th and 6th grades Honors Choir led by Marsha Glover, who has promised a program of sacred, folk, spiritual, and patriotic music. We encourage and welcome parents, grandparents, and friends to join us for the program and lunch. Our menu will be chicken tetrazzini, green salad, homemade french bread and fresh strawberry pie. If you plan to stay for lunch, please make reservations through the church office (601-353-8316) by Wednesday, March 25. Lunch is \$3 and, of course, there is no charge for the program.

## SEW AND SEW

Sew and Sow is currently making blankets for Peruvian babies, to be distributed through Peru Mission, and they are in need of flannel and fleece. If you happen to have an unused stash in your closet with patterns and colors appropriate for babies and would like to donate them to the cause, please drop the fabric by the Christian Education office during the month of March.

## INTERESTED IN JOINING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian Church, please note that our next joining date is Sunday, April 5. Each person joining FPC is asked to fill out a new member form and turn it in two weeks before the joining date (March 23). The new member forms can be obtained from Shannon Craft in Pastoral Care or in the Session Room after the morning worship services. Applications for membership received after March 23 will be held until the next joining date of June 7. Interviews will take place March 24 - April 3. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Craft at 601-326-9243 or shannonc@fpcjackson.org.

# The Vows for the Sacrament of Baptism

In order for the congregation to more fully enter into the service of the sacrament of baptism and to refresh ourselves on our church membership vow, the following is provided for your convenience and information:

To the parents:

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises in (his) behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for (his) salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before (him) a godly example, that you will pray with and for (him), that you will teach (him) the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring (him) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

And

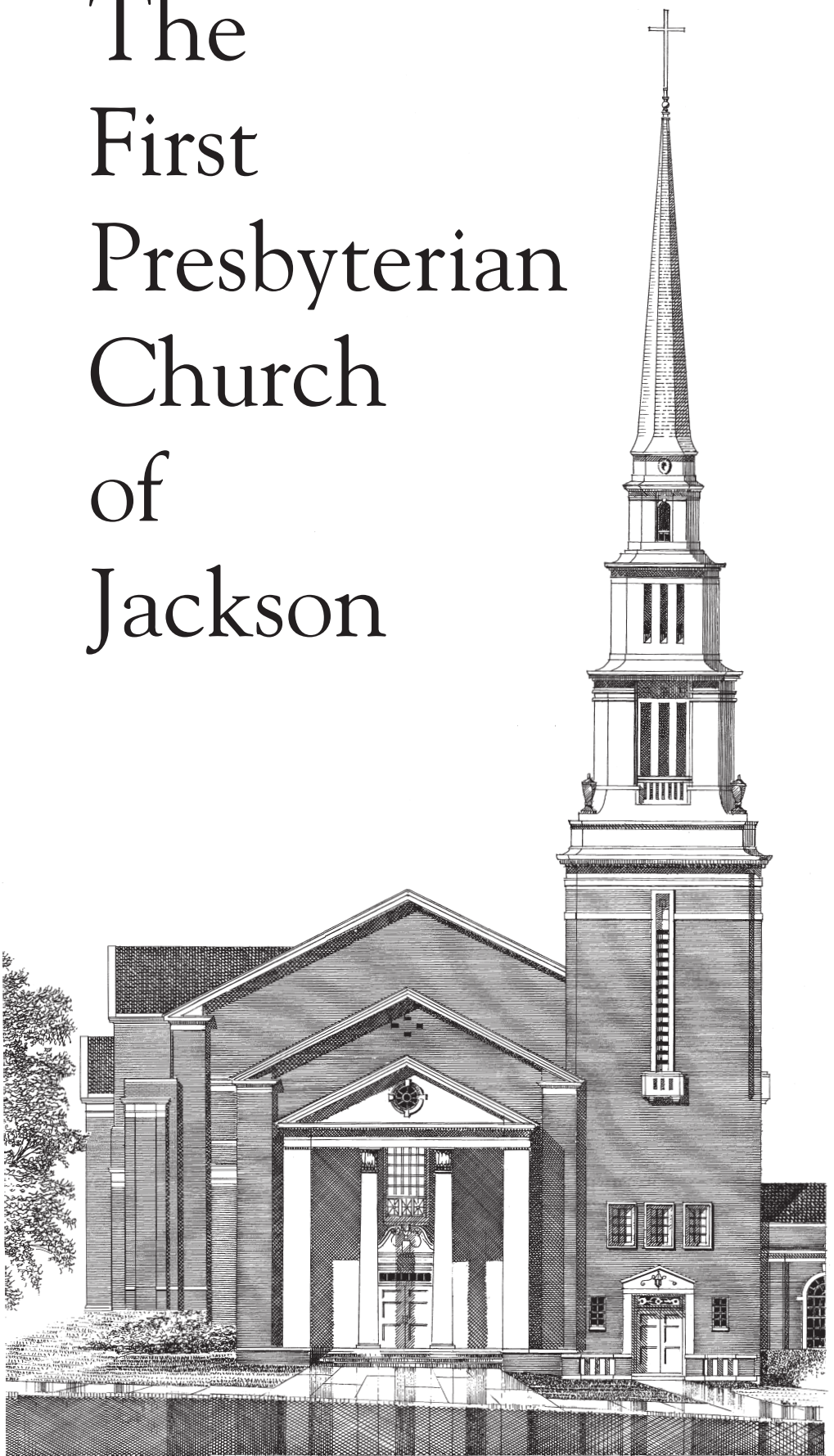
To the congregation:

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

First Presbyterian Church purposes to stand as a Reformed witness to Jackson, to the surrounding community, and ultimately to the world through the proclamation of the whole counsel of God as written in the verbally inspired, infallible Scriptures.

**WORSHIP • DISCIPLESHIP • OUTREACH**

The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



*“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”*