

THE LORD'S DAY

The Seventeenth Day of May, Two Thousand Nine
MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

Senior Minister — The Reverend Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III
Assisting Minister — The Reverend Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas
Minister of Teaching

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 — "Be Thou My Vision"arr. Carol Foss
Yong Wook Kim, Flutist; Connie S. Wadsworth, Organist

The Introit — "Come, Join Our Cheerful Song"Dale Wood

The Call to Worship

‡ **The Hymn of Praise No. 34** — "The God of Abraham Praise"

‡ **The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

The Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 37:1-20 (Pew Bible pages 596-597)

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 — "And Can It Be"Craig Courtney (See Morning Guide)

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Luke 5:12-26 (Pew Bible page 861)

The Sermon — "Healing and Forgiving"Dr. Duncan

‡ **The Hymn of Response No. 647** — "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

‡ **The Benediction**

The Response — "Seven-Fold Amen"Peter Lutkin

The Postlude — "Sons of Sorrow"Dale Wood

‡ Congregation standing

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

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

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

Minister of Congregational Care

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

The Prelude — "Jesus Calls Us"H.A. Matthews
Connie S. Wadsworth, Organist

The Call to Worship

‡ **The Hymn of Praise No. 457** — "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

‡ **The Invocation**

The Evening Hymn No. 707 — "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken" (RUF Tune)

* **The Greetings**

The Evening Prayer — Ruling Elder Tom Rice

The Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory — "Amazing Grace"arr. Timothy Shaw
The Women's Ensemble

The Young Children's Devotional

The Song No. 558 - "That Man Is Blest Who, Fearing God" (Stanzas 1 and 2)

The *Children's Catechism* No. 73

Q. "What are the Ten Commandments called?"

A. "The Decalogue"

The Scripture — Exodus 19:18-20, 20:18-20, 31:18, 34:2; Psalm 19:7-8

Psalm 119:18; Psalm 121:1-2; Isaiah 55:8-9; John 15:5

The MeditationMr. Peter Anderson, Outreach Intern

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 7:3-17 (Pew Bible page 230)

The Sermon — "Here I Raise My Ebenezer"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 — "Postlude in C"H.A. Matthews

*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

The passage before us contains one of those pithy statements of encouragement that are sprinkled throughout the Bible: "Till now the Lord has helped us." This is the passage that inspired the author of our opening hymn to pen the words, "here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come" (Samuel set up a stone and called it Ebenezer which means "stone of help"). It is a bold declaration of what God has done, with a measure of expectation as to what God will do. "Until this point" we are saying, "the Lord has helped, and with that tangible experience, I have expectations as to His kind dealings with me in the future."

And of course the Lord does deal kindly with Israel in this passage. But the words "till now" surely apply j beyond just the military victory experienced in I Samuel 7. "Until now" includes not only the events of that day, but also reach back to all God's dealings with His people. Yes, it was God with them even when there was death and judgment in mishandling the ark, when there were defeats at the hands of the Philistines, and when there were any number of trials and tribulations. It is easy to raise the rock of Ebenezer when it is victory; it takes a special measure of faith to likewise proclaim God's active involvement in times of trouble.

The Children's Catechism

We were introduced to an extended section on the Ten Commandments last week, and we continue with the preliminaries this week before launching into a series of questions examining each of the Ten Words (that's what Decalogue means - ten words).

The Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson's widowed mother sent him to London to learn to be a barber when he was a lad of fourteen. He loved reading more than his appointed vocation and eventually became a minister (first a Methodist, then later a Baptist). This hymn poignantly points out why God's sovereign grace is so essential to our assurance—our hearts "are prone to wander." If our salvation and security rest ultimately on our actions rather than on God's sovereign mercy, then there is no hope. This is such a simple truth, and yet such a difficult one to continue to cling to. We so desperately want to contribute something to our salvation, or at least vindicate God's activities by our own efforts. The grace of God may call us to holy living, but our holy living is never the source of our standing before the Great Judge.

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Another great hymn from Henry Lyte (author of "Abide with Me"—generally considered to be one of the ten best hymns in the English language—and of "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"). The words are powerful. This is a hymn of personal consecration. We have gotten into the habit of singing it to Bill Moore's tune (and with good success), and we will do so again tonight.

How Firm a Foundation

This hymn first appeared in *Rippon's Selections*, a hymnbook put together by Dr. John Rippon, pastor of a Baptist church in London (from 1773 to 1836). *Rippon's Selections* won immediate popularity. Within three years, Baptists in Philadelphia reprinted this hymn, and in five years Rippon's whole book was published in New York. The hymn is really a sermon in verse. In the first stanza the foundation of the Christian faith is said to be the Bible in which God has given us all we need. Those gifts are then specified in the following stanzas. There we are reminded that God will be with us, and will uphold us with His all-powerful hand. In times when we see the foundations slipping all around us, this hymn is a reminder that Jesus Christ is our foundation.

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.

The Anthem — **And Can It Be**Craig Courtney

Choir: Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God thru our Lord Jesus Christ: by Whom we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God!

All: 1. And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

All: 2. He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace;
emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all! immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me!
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou shouldst die for me?

All: 3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee.
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou shouldst die for me?

All: 4. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown thru Christ my own.
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou shouldst die for me? Amen!

FPC THIS WEEK

SUNDAY • May 17, 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
Inquirers Class — 9:40 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
Young Adults Prayer Time — 5:00 p.m. in YH
WIC Prayer Group — 5:00 p.m. in the Parlor
Liberia Prayer Team — 5:15 p.m. in SC215
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

MTJ Committee — 12:00 p.m. in MH

Tuesday

Men's Bible Study — 6:30 a.m. in MH
Staff Meeting — 9:00 a.m. in HC
Worship Committee Team — 12:00 p.m. in MH
Strategic Planning Committee — 12:00 p.m. in MH

Wednesday

Student Ministry Dads' Prayer Breakfast — 6:45 a.m. in YH
Family Night Supper — 5:00 p.m. in MH
Junior High Small Groups — 5:00 p.m. in YH
Palmer Home Mission Team Meeting — 5:15 p.m. in WH204
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 the Sanctuary
Discipleship Groups — 6:30 p.m. in SC/WH
Children's Classes — 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in various rooms as posted (first floor of SC)

Thursday

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

Friday

Day School Graduation — 8:30 a.m. in Sanctuary

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: Charisa Chinchon, 1626 Berkley Circle, Chattanooga, TN 37405. Email: charisamalawi@gmail.com

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given in loving memory of Gilbert Mobley by Maxine L. Mobley.

The flowers in the foyer are given in honor of the 2009 graduating class of Reformed Theological Seminary.

IN MEMORIAM

H. Shannon Williford, Jr. — May 9, 2009

PROS - RETIRING AT LAST MAY 28 WITH DR. TOM ELKIN

Yipee, I'm retired/retiring at last!!.....But, what should this new season of life look like? Dr. Tom Elkin, one of our new staff members, will bring an insightful and biblical approach to the questions of retirement. This is a great opportunity to get to know Tom and to get really excited about those "golden" years. If you are approaching this era or have already settled into it, you are invited to join us at PROS on Thursday, May 28, for the program and for lunch. The menu will be barbeque chicken, baked beans, broccoli salad, homemade biscuits, and banana pudding. Please call the church office by Tuesday, May 26, to make your reservation at 601-353-8316.

INTERESTED IN JOINING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

The next date to receive new members is Sunday, June 7, 2009. Please stop by the Session Room (in the Greeting Courtyard) after the morning service to pick up a new member form. For more information, contact Shannon Craft at 601-326-9243 or shannonc@fpcjackson.org.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY SUMMER SEWING CAMPS

Due to a tremendous response, we have now filled the morning sessions of both summer sewing camps previously offered. We are going to offer afternoon sessions but please sign up as soon as possible, as space is limited and going quickly!

Beginner Sewing Camp — June 22 - 26 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Beginner Sewing Phase 2 — July 27-31 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

To sign-up, please contact Cindi Alexander at 601-992-5243 or loreal@bellsouth.net.

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

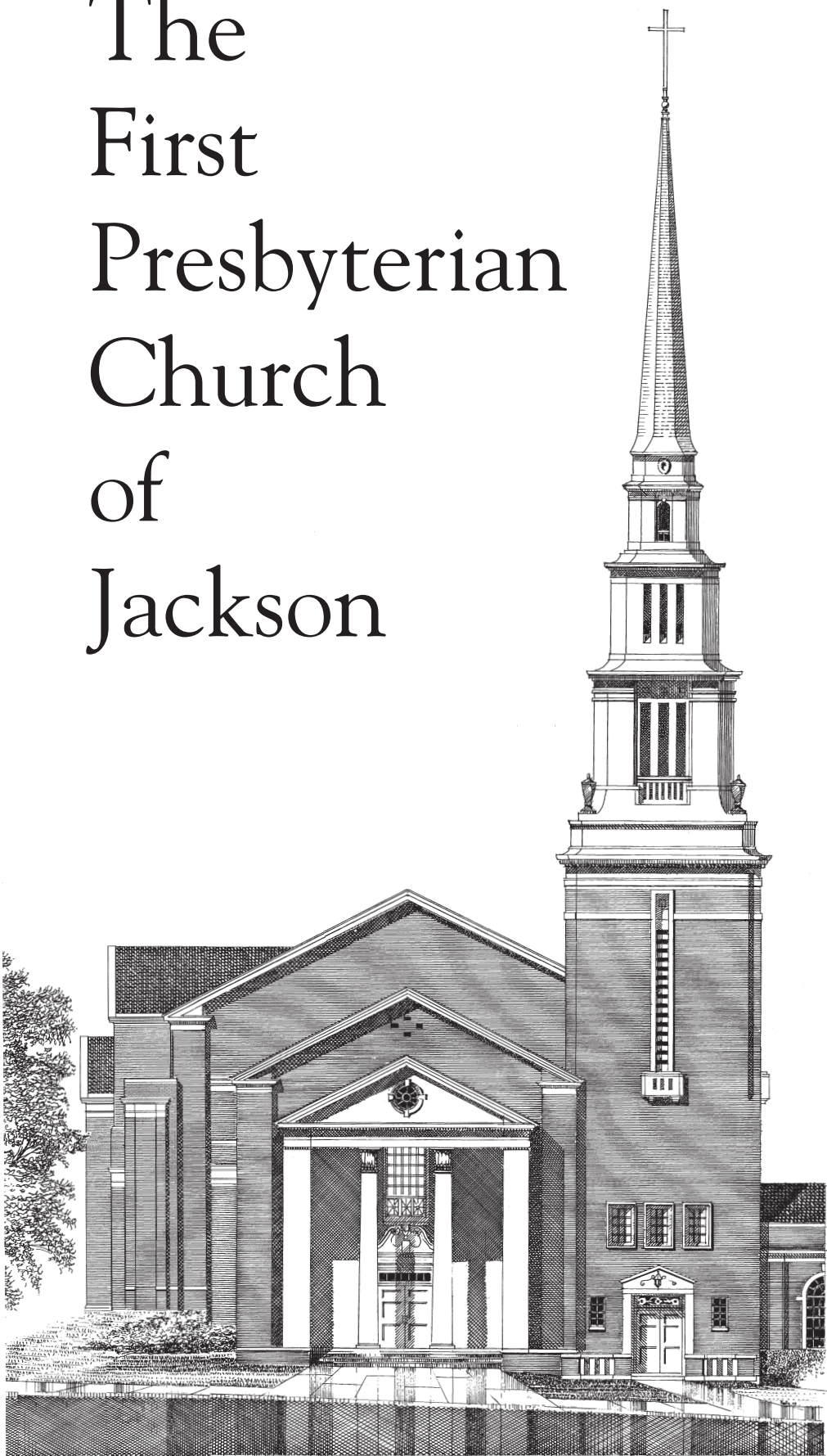
To the congregation:

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”