

The Order for the Worship of God
The Lord's Day
October 2, 2022
10:15 a.m.

Welcome to St. Petersburg Presbyterian Church

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we are glad you are here! Please let us know of your visit by completing a guest card found in the chair pockets and placing it in the offering basket at the conclusion of the service. More information about the ministries of our church can be found on our website at www.stpetepca.org.

Reflection

The wisdom of God is seen in making the most desperate evils turn to the good of His children. As several poison ingredients, wisely tempered by the skill of the artist make a sovereign medicine, so God makes the most deadly afflictions co-operate for the good of His children. He purifies them, and prepares them for heaven. These hard frosts hasten the spring flowers of glory. The wise God, by a divine chemistry, turns afflictions into cordials. He makes His people gainers by losses, and turns their crosses into blessings.

Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

The Welcome and Announcements — Alex Woods, Assistant Pastor

The Passing of the Peace — Jesus Christ has purchased our peace with God through his death on the cross and his resurrection from the grave. Therefore, let us welcome and greet each other with the peace of Christ.

The Call to Worship God — from Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

All: Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

All: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Words and Music: William Kethe

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His flock, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take

O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do

For why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for-ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WE CONFESS WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 18. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful acts of preserving and governing all his creatures, ordering them and all their actions to his own glory.

Give Praise to God

James Montgomery Boice, 1999

Give praise to God who reigns above
For perfect knowledge, wisdom, love;
His judgments are divine, devout,
His paths beyond all tracing out

(Chorus)

Come, lift your voice to heav'n's high throne,
And glory give to God alone!

No one can counsel God all-wise
Or truths unveil to His sharp eyes;
He marks our paths behind, before;
He is our steadfast Counselor (Chorus)

Nothing exists that God might need,
For all things good from Him proceed.
We praise Him as our Lord, and yet
We never place God in our debt (Chorus)

Creation, life, salvation too,
And all things else both good and true,
Come from and through our God always,
And fill our hearts with grateful praise (Chorus)

WE REPENT OF OUR SINS AND RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY

The Call to Confession — 1 Thessalonians 5:15-19

See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.

The Public Confession of Sin

Gracious Father, we confess that we have quenched the work of your Spirit in our lives and grieved you by our sin. Instead of seeking to be under the Spirit's control, we have tried to control our own lives as well as others. Instead of being prayerful, thankful, and joyful, we have grumbled and complained against you and your good purposes. Please forgive us, Father. Do not look upon our sins, but look upon Christ as our substitute. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his righteousness for our dead works. Give us the faith to believe that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection have fully satisfied your holy justice for all who trust in him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

The Promise of God's Forgiveness in Jesus Christ — Titus 3:3-7

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Leader: Believe and rejoice in God's promise to repentant sinners: Through faith in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, loved and accepted by God!

All: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

It Is Well with My Soul

Horatio Spafford, 1873

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Chorus:

It is well (It is well), with my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin — O the bliss of this glorious thought! —
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

The Prayers of God's People

Parents are welcome to take their children, infants to age 4, to the nursery for the remainder of the service.

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK IN HIS WORD

The Sermon
The Book of Esther: Our Invisible, Yet Invincible God
“God Is in Control”
Esther 2:19-3:15
Rev. Dr. David Harding

^{2:19}Now when the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. ²⁰Esther had not made known her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him. ²¹In those days, as Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. ²²And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai. ²³When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

^{3:1}After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him. ²And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage. ³Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, “Why do you transgress the king's command?” ⁴And when they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew. ⁵And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury. ⁶But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

⁷In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, they cast lots) before Haman day after day; and they cast it month after month till the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. ⁸Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king's laws, so that it is not to the king's profit to tolerate them. ⁹If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king's business, that they may put it into the king's treasuries.” ¹⁰So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. ¹¹And the king said to Haman, “The money is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you.”

¹²Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king's satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in its own script

and every people in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring. ¹³Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. ¹⁴A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province by proclamation to all the peoples to be ready for that day. ¹⁵The couriers went out hurriedly by order of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was thrown into confusion.

Sermon Notes

WE FEAST ON CHRIST BY FAITH IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

The elders of St. Petersburg Presbyterian Church welcome to the Lord's Table all those who are turning from their sins and trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation, and are expressing that devotion to Christ as baptized members in good standing of a Christian church where the gospel is loved and proclaimed. We come to the Lord's Table as those who humbly and thankfully recognize that our standing before the Father is completely dependent upon his grace alone, freely given to us in Jesus Christ, the Reality behind this meal.

The Words of Institution

The Giving and Receiving of the Bread and the Cup

Please wait until all have been served, so we may eat and drink together
The communion cup trays contain grape juice on the outer ring and wine on the inner rings.

Come to the Waters

James Montgomery Boice, 2000

Come to the waters, whoever is thirsty;
Drink from the Fountain that never runs dry.
Jesus, the Living One, offers you mercy,
Life more abundant in boundless supply.

Come to the River that flows through the city,
Forth from the throne of the Father and Son.
Jesus the Savior says, "Come and drink deeply."
Drink from the pure, inexhaustible One.

Come to the Fountain without any money;
Buy what is given without any cost.
Jesus, the gracious One, welcomes the weary;
Jesus, the selfless One, died for the lost.

Come to the Well of unmerited favor;
Stretch out your hand; fill your cup to the brim.
Jesus is such a compassionate Savior.
Draw from the grace that flows freely from Him.

Come to the Savior, the God of salvation.
God has provided an end to sin's strife.
Why will you suffer the Law's condemnation?
Take the free gift of the water of life.

WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL WITH SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

Worshiping God through Our Financial Giving — Because God has lavished us with the riches of his grace in Jesus, we give our money joyfully and sacrificially for the spread of the gospel in our city and around the world.

O God, Our Help In Ages Past

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719 Music: William Croft, 1708

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guide while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD TO MAKE DISCIPLES

The Benediction — 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The Dismissal — Having been strengthened and renewed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, let us go from here to live in the security of his providential care.

All: Thanks be to God!

Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the fellowship hall

All music used by permission through Christian Copyright Licensing International, #2216391

Announcements

Missionary of the Month

We are praying this month for our missionaries, Nate and Erin Taylor, serving with Mission to the World (MTW, the PCA's world missions agency) in Glasgow, Scotland. They are partnering with the Free Church of Scotland to plant new churches and strengthen existing churches in Glasgow.

SPPC's 20th Anniversary

On Sunday, October 16, at 5:30 p.m., we will celebrate our church's 20th anniversary. Please scan the QR code to RSVP by Monday, October 10. For more information, contact Lynn Harding at lynnharding@tampabay.rr.com.



Community Groups

God made us for relationships! So, be part of an SPPC Community Group this fall. Sign-up for a group at the Community Group Table in the church foyer or contact Pastor Alex at a.woods@stpetepca.org.

Sunday School for All Ages

Children, youth and adult Sunday school classes resumed this Sunday. Take advantage of these opportunities to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Fall Women's Bible Study

SPPC's Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday's, at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We are studying the OT prophet, Habakkuk. Please sign up (so we can make your name tag) in the fellowship hall. Study guides are available for \$10 in the kitchen area, or online for \$15. Childcare is available, so please indicate if needed. For more information, contact Sharon Stonecipher at smstone54@gmail.com.

SPPC Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible study meets on Friday morning's, 7:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We are studying the Gospel of John. Join with other SPPC men for fellowship and encouragement in our walk with Christ. Contact Pastor Dave for more information at d.harding@stpetepca.org.

Fall Women's Retreat, October 28-29



Women, high school age and older, are invited to join us for the Fall Women's Retreat at Day-spring Retreat Center in Ellenton, October 28-29. Our theme this year is Prayer and we anticipate a great time of fellowship, worship, and prayer together. Register in the church foyer or by scanning the QR code. Scholarships are available. For more information, contact Debbie Wade at debbiewade75@gmail.com.

This Week at SPPC

Sunday (October 2)

- 8:30 a.m. Congregational Prayer — meets in classroom by fellowship hall
9:00 a.m. Bible Classes for all ages
10:15 a.m. Corporate Worship
5:30 p.m. Casselli Community Group

Monday (Office closed)

Tuesday

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study — Habakkuk — meets in fellowship hall
6:30 p.m. Jenkins Community Group — 4541 52nd Ave N. (727) 452-8715
7:30 p.m. James Club — meets in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday

- 7:00 p.m. Burkham Community Group — North St. Pete/Gandy (610) 217-8718
7:00 p.m. Tanner Community Group — 323 Snell Isle Blvd. NE (727) 482-4855

Friday

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study — The Gospel of John — meets in fellowship hall

SPPC Community Bible Reading Calendar

Monday, October 3	Isaiah 57-59	2 Thessalonians 3
Tuesday, October 4	Isaiah 60-62	1 Timothy 1
Wednesday, October 5	Isaiah 63-65	1 Timothy 2
Thursday, October 6	Isaiah 66; Jeremiah 1-2	1 Timothy 3
Friday, October 7	Jeremiah 3-5	1 Timothy 4
Saturday, October 8	Psalm 119:73-176	

Ministry Leadership

Pastor	Rev. David Harding	727-434-9048
Assistant Pastor	Rev. Alex Woods	813-385-6141
Ruling Elders	Bob Berry	407-920-7412
	Derik Jenkins	727-452-8715
Deacons	John Howat	727-504-0587
	Robert Jones	901-864-8877
	Dave Shadle	610-217-8718
Administrative Assistant	Michele Hurm	727-329-6346
Children and Youth	Derik Jenkins	727-452-8715
Community Groups	Alex Woods	813-385-6141
Hospitality Team	Barbara Burkham	727-579-4220
James Club	Kyle Krueger	727-364-7355
Men's Ministry	Dave Harding	727-434-9048
Mercy Ministry	Dave Shadle	610-217-8718
Missions Team	Bob Berry	407-920-7412
Safety Team	Alex Rogers	813-327-2571
Sound/Video Team	Brad Grabill	727-560-8960
Women's Ministry	Lindsey Hutchinson	727-434-0095
Worship Team	Donna Grabill	727-415-3735

Supported Missionaries & Agencies

Esaie and Natacha Etienne	Mission to the World	Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Susan Newkirk	Mission to the World	Cape Town, S. Africa
David and Erin Pervis	Mission to the World	Athens, Greece
Nate and Erin Taylor	Mission to the World	Glasgow, Scotland
Marcelo and Claudia Carvalho	WEC Brazil	Amazon, Brazil
Ravi and Renuka Chary	Presbyterian Church, India (PCI)	Telangana, India
Anonymous	Wycliffe Bible Translators	West Africa
Aldo and Abby Mondin	Reformed University Fellowship	USF, Tampa
Becca Romano	Reformed University Fellowship	USF, Tampa
Kelly Potilechio	Young Life	St. Petersburg
Mark Culligan	New Hearts Outreach	Tampa
New Life Solutions Pregnancy Center		St. Petersburg
Next STEPP Pregnancy Center		St. Petersburg
Covenant Theological Seminary		St. Louis
Reformed Theological Seminary		Charlotte/Orlando