

**The Order for the Worship of God**  
**The Lord's Day**  
**January 21, 2024**  
**10:15 a.m.**

**Reflection**

We know that a person is not justified by works of the law  
but through faith in Jesus Christ,  
so we also have believed in Christ Jesus,  
in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law,  
because by works of the law no one will be justified.  
Galatians 2:16

There is no middle ground between Christian righteousness and works-righteousness. There is no other alternative to Christian righteousness but works righteousness. If you do not build your confidence on the work of Christ, you must build your confidence on your own work. This doctrine of justification is the head and the cornerstone. It alone begets, nourishes, builds, preserves and defends the church of God, and without it the church of God cannot exist for one hour.

— Martin Luther, *Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians*

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

**The Welcome and Announcements** — Pastor David Harding

**The Peace** — Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us welcome one another with the peace of Christ.

**The Call to Worship God** — from Hebrews 1 and 4

Leader: Jesus Christ is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

**All:**     **After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.**

Leader: Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

**All:**     **For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

### **Arise, My Soul, Arise**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1742; Music: Kevin Twit, 1996

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;  
The bleeding sacrifice, in my behalf appears;  
Before the throne my Surety stands,  
Before the throne my Surety stands,  
My name is written on His hands.

Chorus:

Arise, arise, arise, arise my soul, arise.  
Arise, arise, arise, arise my soul, arise.  
Shake off your guilty fears and rise

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;  
His all redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead;  
His blood atoned for every race,  
His blood atoned for every race,  
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Five bleeding wounds He bears; received on Calvary;  
They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:  
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,  
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,  
"Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;  
He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear  
With confidence I now draw nigh,  
With confidence I now draw nigh,  
And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.

### **The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

## WE CONFESS TOGETHER WHAT WE BELIEVE

Leader: What do you believe as followers of Jesus Christ?

**All:** As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world — which some seek to control, and others view with despair — we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God! From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until the kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever: Our world belongs to God! God is King: Let the earth be glad! Christ is victor: his rule has begun! The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

*from “Our World Belongs to God,” Articles 1-2, Christian Reformed Church of North America*

### **Rejoice, the Lord Is King**

Charles Wesley, 1744

Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph ever-more.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;  
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o’er earth and heaven;  
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv’n.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,  
And take his servants up to their eternal home.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice.

## WE REPENT OF OUR SINS AND RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY

### **The Call to Confession — Psalm 51:1-4**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are right in your verdict and blameless in your judgment.

### **The Public Confession of Sin**

**O Father, I cannot think or act without every motion being infected with sin. Have mercy on me, a poor gospel-abusing sinner. Help my soul to breathe after holiness, to pursue a constant devotion to you, to grow in grace more abundantly every day. O Lord, I am ready to sink because I fall so short of my desire. I cannot lift my soul to you unless you bring me near. Dear Refuge of my weary soul, I confide in you and lean upon you to assist and lead me. In your great mercy, let all my sins be put on Jesus and all his righteousness be counted to me. Help me to know and rest in the freedom you have purchased for me through the cross of my Redeemer and Friend.**

*from The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*

### **Silent Prayers of Confession**

### **God's Promise of Forgiveness in Jesus Christ — Galatians 4:4-7**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So, you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Leader: Christian, hear and believe the promise of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are free from the guilt and condemnation of your sins. Rest in the freedom of your Father's forgiveness and love.

**All: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!**

## **How Deep The Father's Love for Us**

Stuart Townend, 1995

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son, to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One, bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life, I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no power, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ; His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart; His wounds have paid my ransom.

## **The Prayers of God's People**

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

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK IN HIS WORD

**The Sermon**

**Galatians: The Gospel of Freedom in Jesus Christ**

**“The Foundational Gospel”**

**Galatians 1:11-24**

**Rev. Alex Woods**

<sup>11</sup>I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. <sup>12</sup>I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup>For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. <sup>15</sup>But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup>to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. <sup>17</sup>I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

<sup>18</sup>Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup>I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother. <sup>20</sup>I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. <sup>21</sup>Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. <sup>22</sup>I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. <sup>23</sup>They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” <sup>24</sup>And they praised God because of me.

**The Big Idea:** Often we fall to the temptation of wanting something more than the gospel. In our text, the Galatians believe they need something more than the gospel, that salvation equals Jesus plus following the Mosaic law. Paul responds by telling them that the gospel is not only for the beginning of the Christian life, but the whole of the Christian life. And to be a Christian, we must remember that the gospel is the foundation of our life as well. And to keep the gospel as the foundation of our Christian life, we must remember its source, its essence, and its purpose.

## Sermon Notes

### **1. Remember the Gospel's Source (vv.11-12; vv.17-23)**

### **2. Remember the Gospel's Essence (vv.13-16)**

### **3. Remember the Gospel's Purpose (vv.23-24)**

#### **Questions for personal reflection and family/Community Group discussion:**

1. How did God use the ordinary means of grace in corporate worship to encourage, comfort, convict, or challenge you in your relationship with Him?
2. Why can it be so easy to stray from the foundational truths of the gospel? How were the Galatians doing so? How do we do so in our own time?
3. How can our desire to go "beyond the gospel" show a misunderstanding of the gospel?
4. Take a moment and read Jeremiah 1:4–5. How do Paul's words in Galatians 1:15–16 echo the words in Jeremiah? Why might this be significant? What might Paul be signaling about the significance and legitimacy of his gospel ministry and preaching?
5. Read Galatians 1:13–16 one more time. Why was Paul's conversion and apostolic call so utterly astounding and unexpected? What can we infer about God as we consider Paul's conversion? What are the implications for our own relationship with God?
6. Read John 12:27-28. As Jesus faced the cross, what was his ultimate concern? How might the gospel help us to live for God's glory?

**Prayer Prompt:** As you conclude, take some time to consider the wonder of Paul's conversion and call—as well as the miracle of your own! Thank God for his effectual call—for the way he made your dead heart come alive to repentance and faith in his Son. Finally, spend some time asking God to strengthen you to stand courageously against teachings, influences, and impulses within your own heart that would do damage to the free gospel of grace.

## WE FEAST ON JESUS CHRIST IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

### **The Invitation to the Lord's Supper**

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.

### **The Heidelberg Catechism, Question 75**

Leader: How does the Lord's Supper signify and assure you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all his gifts?

**All: In this way: Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat of this broken bread and drink of this cup in remembrance of him. With this command he gave these promises: First, as surely as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup given to me, so surely was his body offered for me and his blood poured out for me on the cross. Second, as surely as I receive from the hand of the minister and taste with my mouth the bread and the cup of the Lord as sure signs of Christ's body and blood, so surely does he himself nourish and refresh my soul to everlasting life with his crucified body and shed blood.**

### **The Giving and Receiving of the Bread and Cup**

Please wait until all have been served, so we may eat together

**Please Note:** The cup trays contain wine on the inner rings and grape juice on the outer ring.

### **Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul**

Words: Anne Steele, Music: Kevin Twit

Dear refuge of my weary soul, on Thee, when sorrows rise,  
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll, my fainting hope relies.  
To Thee I tell each rising grief, for Thou alone canst heal;  
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief, for every pain I feel.

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail, I fear to call Thee mine;  
The springs of comfort seem to fail, and all my hopes decline.  
Yet, gracious God, where shall I flee? Thou art my only trust;  
And still my soul would cleave to Thee, though prostrate in the dust.

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face, and shall I seek in vain?  
And can the ear of sovereign grace, be deaf when I complain?  
No, still the ear of sovereign grace, attends the mourner's prayer;  
O may I ever find access, to breathe my sorrows there.

Thy mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat;  
With humble hope attend Thy will, and wait beneath Thy feet.  
Thy mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat;  
With humble hope attend Thy will, and wait beneath Thy feet.



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 Christ, we give our money willingly, joyfully, and sacrificially for the spread of the gospel in our city and around the world.

**Crown Him with Many Crowns**

Matthew Bridges, 1852

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life! Who triumphed o'er the grave,  
Who rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing, Who died, and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of love, behold His hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou has died for me;  
Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD TO MAKE DISCIPLES

**The Benediction** — Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

**The Dismissal** — Having been fed and nourished with the renewing grace of God in the gospel, let us go from here to live as those love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Please remain for refreshments and conversation in the fellowship hall.**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Welcome to SPPC**



If you are a first-time guest with us, we are so glad you are here! Please let us know of your visit by scanning the QR code, or by completing one of the guest cards found in the chair pockets and placing it in the offering basket at the conclusion of the service. More information about our church can be found at [www.stpetepca.org](http://www.stpetepca.org).

### **Missionary of the Month**

We are praying in January for our supported missionary who serves with Wycliffe Bible Translators in West Africa. This year, they is in Canada, completing language and biblical studies. They plan to return to Africa near the end of 2024. Due to the location of their work, they have asked to remain anonymous in our printed communications.

### **SPPC Women's Bible Study**



The women's Bible study meets each Tuesday morning from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We are studying *Ephesians: Growing in Christ*, by Lydia Brownback. Books are \$10 and childcare is provided. For more information, email Sharon Stonecipher at [smstone54@gmail.com](mailto:smstone54@gmail.com).

### **SPPC Men's Friday Morning Bible Study**

The Men's Bible study meets on Fridays at 7:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall, continuing with a series, "Holiness by the Power of Grace." Join with other men for fellowship and encouragement in our walk with Christ. For more information, contact Pastor Dave at [d.harding@stpetepca.org](mailto:d.harding@stpetepca.org).

### **"Membership Matters" Class, February 2-3**



If you are interested in becoming a member of SPPC, or want to learn more about the Christian faith and the ministries of our church, then join us for "Membership Matters" on February 2-3. This is a weekend seminar, Friday evening (dinner included) and Saturday morning (breakfast). Please register by scanning the QR code or by contacting Pastor Alex at [a.woods@stpetepca.org](mailto:a.woods@stpetepca.org).

### **Year-to-Date Financial Information through December 31, 2023**

<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>Faith Promise Missions</u> (from April 1, 2023)
\$516,465	\$507,040	\$420,973	\$35,715

## **THIS WEEK AT SPPC**

### **Sunday, January 21, 2024**

- 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  
**12:00 p.m.** Session and Diaconate lunch and meetings

**Monday** (Office closed)

### **Tuesday**

- 9:30 a.m.** Women's Bible Study — in the fellowship hall  
**6:30 p.m.** Jenkins Community Group — 4541 52nd Ave N. (727) 452-8715  
**7:30 p.m.** James Club — A Christ-centered outreach ministry for those struggling with alcohol and drug addictions. Meets in the fellowship hall

### **Wednesday**

- 5:15 p.m.** Krueger/Higgins Community Group — 3201 2nd St. N. (727) 249-2588  
**6:30 p.m.** Harding Community Group — 1541 Eden Isle Blvd. NE (727) 709-5740  
**7:00 p.m.** Shadle Community Group — meets in the fellowship hall (610) 217-8718

### **Friday**

- 7:00 a.m.** Men's Bible Study — meets in the fellowship hall

#### **SPPC Community Bible Reading Calendar**

Monday, January 22	Genesis 46-48	Matthew 16
Tuesday, January 23	Genesis 49-50; Exodus 1	Matthew 17
Wednesday, January 24	Exodus 2-4	Matthew 18
Thursday, January 25	Exodus 5-7	Matthew 19
Friday, January 26	Exodus 8-10	Matthew 20
Saturday, January 27	Psalm 10-12	

### Ministry Leadership

Pastor	Rev. Dr. David Harding	727-434-9048
Associate 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	Debbie Wade	727-386-2032
Children and Youth	Derik Jenkins	727-452-8715
Community Groups	Alex Woods	813-385-6141
Finance Team	Bill Brannan	813-220-4969
Hospitality Team	Linda Berry	407-797-3129
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	Lynn Harding	727-709-5740
Worship/Music Team	Donna Grabill	727-415-3735

### Supported Missionaries & Agencies

Esaie and Natacha Etienne	Mission to the World	Dominican Republic
Peter and Lauren Dishman	Mission to the World	Bogota, Columbia
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
Derrick and Katie	Serge	North Africa
Marcelo and Claudia Carvalho	World Evangelization for Christ (WEC)	Amazon, Brazil
Srikanth and Pushpa Kota	Presbyterian Church, India (PCI)	Telangana, India
Christina Schrader	Wycliffe Bible Translators	Vancouver, BC
Chuck and Sheree McArthur	Equipping Leaders Int'l (ELI)	Jacksonville, FL
Bruce and Ann McDowell	Santiago Theological Seminary	Santiago, DR
Aldo and Abby Mondin	Reformed University Fellowship	USF, Tampa
Becca Romano	Reformed University Fellowship	USF, Tampa
Wright and Elizabeth Busching	University PCA Church Plant	Tampa
Maggie Harlan	Young Life	St. Petersburg
Kelly Potilechio	Young Life	St. Petersburg
Mark Culligan	New Hearts Outreach	Tampa
Carole Alexander	Next STEPP Pregnancy Center	St. Petersburg
New Life Solutions Pregnancy Center		St. Petersburg
Covenant Theological Seminary		St. Louis
Reformed Theological Seminary		Orlando/Charlotte
Florida Church Planting Network		