

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

**Reflection**

The gospel is that we do not try to attain a righteousness that our abilities can develop. Rather, we are to receive a righteousness provided through supernatural acts of God in history—the miraculous birth, sin-bearing death, and death-defeating resurrection of Christ. We need to rely on God—just as Abraham eventually learned that he needed the miraculous work of God to provide him with a son and heir. As Abraham needed to switch his faith from his own efforts to God's supernatural work, so these Galatian Christians need to look back to Christ's work, rather than at their own law-keeping efforts.

Tim Keller, *Galatians for You*

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

**The Welcome and Announcements** — Rev. Alex Woods, Associate Pastor

**The Passing of the Peace** — In Christ Jesus, we who were once far away from God have been brought near to him by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace. Therefore, we welcome one another with the peace of Christ.

**The Call to Worship God** — From Psalm 95 — Derik Jenkins, Ruling Elder

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

**All: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also.**

Leader: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

**All: For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.**

## **We Come, O Christ, to You**

Margaret Clarkson

We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man,  
By whom all things consist, in whom all life began:  
In you alone we live and move, and have our being in your love.  
You are the way to God, your blood our ransom paid;  
In you we face our Judge and Maker unafraid.  
Before the throne absolved we stand, your love has met your law's demand.  
You are the living truth; all wisdom dwells in you,  
The source of every skill, the one eternal True!  
O great I AM! In you we rest, sure answer to our every quest.  
You only are true Life, to know you is to live  
The more abundant life that earth can never give:  
O risen Lord! We live in you: in us each day your life renew!  
We worship you, Lord Christ, our Savior and our King,  
To you our youth and strength adoringly we bring:  
So fill our hearts, that all may view your life in us, and turn to you

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

#### WE CONFESS TOGETHER WHAT WE BELIEVE

Q. 31. With whom was the covenant of grace made?

**A. The covenant of grace was made with Christ as the second Adam, and with all the chosen ones in him as his seed.**

Q. 33. Was the covenant of grace always administered in one and the same manner?

**A. The covenant of grace was not always administered in the same manner; the administrations of it under the Old Covenant were different from those under the New.**

Q. 34. How was the covenant of grace administered under the Old Covenant?

**A. The covenant of grace was administered under the Old Covenant by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the Passover, and other symbols and ordinances, all of which foreshadowed the Christ to come and were sufficient for that time to build up the chosen ones in faith in the promised Messiah, by whom they then had full remission of sin and eternal salvation.**

Q. 35. How is the covenant of grace administered under the New Covenant?

**A. Under the New Covenant, when Christ was exhibited as the true substance of what had been previously foreshadowed, the same covenant of grace was and still is to be administered in the preaching of the Word and the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, in which grace and salvation are held forth in more fullness, evidence, and effectiveness to all nations.**

## **On Christ, the Solid Rock, I Stand**

Mote and Bradbury

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus Christ, my righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood, Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found;  
In Him, my righteousness, alone, Faultless to stand before the throne.

### **The Introduction of New Members**

Byron Belser

Richard and Leanne Faris

David Moore

Benjamin Starcevich

Anabella Rojas and Nicholas Wise

Michael and Jennifer Walsh

### **Covenant Membership Vows**

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving his displeasure, and without hope except in his sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and the only Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered in the gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to pursue its purity and peace?

WE REPENT OF OUR SINS AND RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY

**The Call to Confession** — Isaiah 57:15

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,  
    who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:  
I dwell in the high and holy place,  
    and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,  
to revive the spirit of the lowly,  
    and to revive the heart of the contrite.

**The Public Confession of Sin**

**Almighty, eternal God and Father, we confess and acknowledge unto You that we were conceived in unrighteousness and are full of sin and transgression in all our life. We do not fully believe Your Word nor follow Your holy commandments. Remember Your goodness, we pray, and for Your Name's sake be gracious unto us, and forgive us our iniquity which is great. Amen.**

-Martin Bucer

**Silent Prayers of Confession**

**The Assurance of God's Forgiveness in Jesus Christ** — Micah 7:18-20

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity  
    and passing over transgression  
    for the remnant of his inheritance?  
He does not retain his anger forever,  
    because he delights in steadfast love.  
<sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us;  
    he will tread our iniquities underfoot.  
You will cast all our sins  
    into the depths of the sea.  
<sup>20</sup> You will show faithfulness to Jacob  
    and steadfast love to Abraham,  
as you have sworn to our fathers  
    from the days of old.

Leader: Hear and believe this gospel: Through faith alone in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven! Rejoice in His great love!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus**

Samuel Trevor Francis, Thomas John Williams

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;  
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.  
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love;  
Leading onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise from shore to shore!  
How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore!  
How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best:  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee.

### **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**  
**“Father Abraham”**  
**Galatians 4:21-5:1**  
**Rev. Alex Woods**

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? <sup>22</sup> For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. <sup>23</sup> But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. <sup>24</sup> Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. <sup>25</sup> Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup> But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup> For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;  
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!  
For the children of the desolate one will be more  
than those of the one who has a husband.”

<sup>28</sup> Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup> But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. <sup>30</sup> But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” <sup>31</sup> So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

<sup>1</sup> For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

**The Big Idea:**

Since the grace of God is totally free, we must not think there’s anything we can add to it to gain God’s favor. To realize this, we must recognize our only two options before God, reject slavery, and then embrace freedom.

**Sermon Notes**

1. Recognize the Options (vv.4:21-23)

2. Reject Slavery (vv.4:24-27)

3. Embrace Freedom (vv.4:28-5:1)

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

1. What elements of the worship service were particularly helpful and encouraging for you? Why?
2. This entire passage hinges on Paul looking back to the Old Testament. Where does he take the Galatians in Jewish history? Why do you think he chooses to reference these stories and passages?
3. Take a moment to read Genesis 16:1–6. What do Abraham’s actions in this account reveal about his attitude toward the promise of God that his wife would bear him a son? What is the result of his actions with Hagar in the immediate context?
4. Why would it have been surprising to the Judaizers to hear Paul identify them as children of Hagar, not of Sarah? How would the Judaizers have thought of themselves? Why might Galatians 4:25 have been particularly shocking, and even offensive, to Paul’s Jewish opponents?
5. The other Old Testament passage referenced by Paul in this passage is Isaiah 54:1; he quotes it word for word. Read Isaiah 54:1–5. What promise is revealed in these verses? How does it relate to the overall message of the book of Galatians?
6. In what sense does the gospel bring freedom from slavery? What does it mean to live as a child in a relationship not enslaved to religion?
7. We have seen that Abraham’s approach to the birth of Ishmael and his approach to the birth of Isaac can represent two different ways of relating to God. One way is by human effort and law; the other is through God’s grace and faith. How can you tell when you are beginning to live by human effort and law, rather than by God’s grace and faith? What warning signs might you identify in your thoughts, attitudes, and worship?

WE COMMUNE WITH JESUS CHRIST IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

The Session of St. Petersburg Presbyterian Church welcomes to the Lord's Table all those who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and are baptized members in good standing of a Christian church where the gospel is loved and proclaimed. We do not come to this meal as those who are righteous in ourselves, but as those who know that our standing before the Father is completely dependent upon his grace, given to us through faith in Jesus Christ, who is the Reality behind this meal.

**The Words of Institution**

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

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

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

**The Church's One Foundation**

Samuel J. Stone, 1866

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,  
She is His new creation by water and the Word.  
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song!

The Church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,  
To guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;  
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,  
Against both foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won,  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.



WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL WITH SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

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

**Your Grace Is Enough**

Words and Music by Matt Maher

Great is Your faithfulness Oh God  
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart  
You lead us by still waters into mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart.

(Chorus)

So remember Your people,  
Remember Your children,  
Remember Your promise, Oh God.  
Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough, for me.

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob  
You use the weak to lead the strong.  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation,  
And all Your people sing along. (Chorus)  
Your grace is enough, Heaven reaches out to us.  
Your grace is enough for me, God I sing: Your grace is enough  
I'm covered in Your love. Your grace is enough for me.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD TO MAKE DISCIPLES

**The Benediction** — From 2 Thess. 3:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

**The Dismissal** — Leader: Having been fed and nourished by the faithful love of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ, let us go from here to live in the confidence of his love.

**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**

Our missions prayer focus for April is New Hearts Outreach in Tampa. New Hearts is a Christ-centered ministry to people struggling with sexual and drug addictions. Pray for Mark Culligan and his staff, that God would use them to bring about gospel transformation in the lives of people for His glory.

### **SPPC Short-Term Mission Trip**

Join us for a short-term mission trip Monday, June 3rd through Friday, June 7th in Mullins, South Carolina. Mission to North America works with Mullins Presbyterian Church to do an annual Mission Mullins service project. There is still time to go if you let Bob Berry know by emailing him at [bberry1349@aol.com](mailto:bberry1349@aol.com) this week.

### **Membership Matters**



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 May 3-4. This is a Friday evening (dinner included) and Saturday morning (breakfast) seminar. Please register by scanning the QR code or by contacting Pastor Alex at [a.woods@stpetepca.org](mailto:a.woods@stpetepca.org).

**THIS WEEK AT SPPC**

**Sunday (April 21)**

- 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

**Monday** (Office closed)

**Tuesday**

- 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. Higgins Community Group — 3201 2nd St. N. (727) 249-2588
- 6:30 p.m. Harding Community Group—1541 Eden Isle Blvd. NE (727) 434-9048
- 7:00 p.m. Shadle Community Group — meets in the fellowship hall (610) 217-8718

**Friday**

- 7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study in the fellowship hall

**Year-to-Date Financial Information through March 31, 2024**

<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>Faith Promise Missions</u> (from April 1, 2023)
\$110,552	\$119,438	\$555,380	\$47,757

**SPPC Community Bible Reading Calendar**

Monday, April 22	1 Samuel 5-7	Luke 10
Tuesday, April 23	1 Samuel 8-10	Luke 11
Wednesday, April 24	1 Samuel 11-13	Luke 12
Thursday, April 25	1 Samuel 14-16	Luke 13
Friday, April 26	1 Samuel 17-19	Luke 14
Saturday, April 27	Psalm 49-51	

### 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
Kairos Prison Ministry		Zephyrhills
Covenant Theological Seminary		St. Louis
Reformed Theological Seminary		Orlando/Charlotte
Florida Church Planting Network		