

The Order for the Worship of God
The Lord's Day
May 5, 2024
10:15 a.m.

Reflection

Every time we say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit," we mean that we believe that there is a living God able and willing to enter human personality and change it.

— J.B. Phillips

In order to mortify (kill) sin in our lives, we must by faith fill our souls with a due consideration of that provision laid up for us in Jesus Christ. By faith ponder on this, that though you are not able in yourself to get the conquest over your sins, though you are even weary of contending, and are utterly ready to faint, yet that there is enough in Jesus Christ to yield you relief. In your greatest distress and anguish, consider that fullness of grace, those riches, those treasures of strength, might, and help that are laid up in him for our support. Let them come into and abide in your mind. The efficacy of this consideration will be found only in the practice of it.

— John Owen, *The Mortification of Sin*

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, let us welcome one another with the peace of Christ.

The Call to Worship God — from 1 Chronicles 16

Leader: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him; sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

All: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Leader: Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of Israel his servant, sons of Jacob, his chosen ones!

All: He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. Remember his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

All Creatures of Our God and King

Sovereign Grace Music

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| Let all things their Creator bless, And worship him with humbleness! O praise him, Alleluia! | All the redeemed washed by His blood Come and rejoice in His great love O praise Him! Alleluia! |
| Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, Three in One, O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! | Christ has defeated every sin Cast all your burdens now on Him O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! |

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson, 1758

Come Thou Fount of every blessing tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the Name! I'm fixed upon it, Name of thy redeeming love.

Hither to thy love has blessed me, thou hast brought me to this place,
And I know thy hand will bring me safely home by thy good grace.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God:
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

O that day when freed from sinning, I shall see thy lovely face,
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen, how I'll sing thy sovereign grace.
Come, My Lord, no longer tarry, bring thy promises to pass,
For I know thy pow'r will keep me till I'm home with thee at last.

The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

WE CONFESS TOGETHER WHAT WE BELIEVE

**The Heidelberg Catechism
Question 53**

Leader: What do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit?

All: First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God. Second, that the Spirit is given also to me, so that, through true faith, he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits, comforts me, and will remain with me forever.

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend © 2006

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord
Come renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see;
Give me passion for Your purity.
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within;
May Your joy be seen in all I do
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
In each thought and deed and attitude,
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace.
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth;
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise.
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
Will be clear for all the world to see.

WE REPENT OF OUR SINS AND RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY

The Call to Confession — Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Public Confession of Sin

Gracious Father, you tell us in your Word that we are your dearly loved children through faith in your Son, Jesus. You tell us that he has set us free from the penalty and power of sin by his death and resurrection, and that your Spirit lives within us to lead us in a life of righteousness. Yet, we often fail to live as free people, not believing your promises and disregarding your commands. Have mercy on us and forgive us for the sake of Jesus. Give us the yoke of his grace, so that we find the rest our souls are seeking in him. Fill us afresh with your Life-giving Spirit so that our lives overflow with his fruit, showing that we really are your children. We ask these things in Jesus' holy and powerful name. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

The Assurance of God's Forgiveness in Jesus Christ — from 1 Peter 1:18-19, 3:18

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

Leader: Hear and believe and rejoice in the glory of the gospel: Through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, God forgives all your sins and accepts you as righteous in his sight, now and forever!

All: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

Satisfied

Words: Clara T. Williams, 1875; Music: Karl Digerness, 1997

All my life long I had panted for a drink from some cool spring
That I hoped would quench the burning of the thirst I felt within
Hallelujah! He has found me, the One my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies all my longings, through his blood I now am saved

Feeding on the filth around me, 'till my strength was almost gone
Longed my soul for something better, only still to hunger on
Hallelujah! He has found me, the One my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies all my longings, through his blood I now am saved

Poor I was and sought for riches, something that would satisfy
But the dust I gathered 'round me only mocked my soul's sad cry
Hallelujah! He has found me, the One my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies all my longings, through his blood I now am saved

Well of water ever springing, Bread of Life so rich and free
Untold wealth that never faileth, my Redeemer is to me
Hallelujah! He has found me, the One my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies all my longings, through his blood I now am saved.

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 Normal Christian Life”
Galatians 5:13-26

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

The Big Idea: This passage describes the “normal” Christian life. It is a life that is shaped, guided, and empowered by God, the Holy Spirit. Paul describes here that internal battle every believer experiences between the desires of the flesh and desires of the Spirit. He reminds us that every Christian is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and therefore, has access to the infinite resources of God’s power to overcome sin and live in glad obedience to his commands. And we are comforted with the assurance that God’s Spirit is at work to produce the character of his Son, Jesus, in us.

1. The Power of the Christian Life (13, 16, 18, 24-25))

2. The Pattern of the Christian Life (19-23)

3. The Practice of the Christian Life (13-16, 24-26)

Questions for personal reflection and family/Community Group discussion:

1. What helped you/encouraged you as you worshiped with God's people?
2. Describe the spiritual battle Paul mentions in 5:17. How does this compare to Romans 7:13-25?
3. How is it actually good news that you are experiencing this internal warfare? What promise does God give that we are and will be victors in this fight?
4. What are the desires of the flesh that give rise to its works? What does it mean to "crucify" the flesh at the level of its passions and desires? How do you do this daily in "the heat of the moment?"
5. What are the dangers in this passage of not putting the flesh to death? What are the blessings? What are the implications for the life of the church?
6. What are the desires of the Spirit? How does he produce his fruit in our lives? What does this mean for your daily life? What are some applications here for a married couple?
7. Take a few moments to share in your group how you see the fruit of the Spirit being displayed in each other. Be as specific as possible. Pray for the Spirit's powerful work in your lives.

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 pictured for us and assured to us in this sacrament.

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.

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 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.

By Faith

Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend, 2009

By faith we see the hand of God in the light of creation's grand design,
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness, who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth with the power of His promise in their hearts,
Of a holy city built by God's own hand, a place where peace and justice reign.

Chorus:

We will stand as children of the promise;
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward,
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day when the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death, and rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go in the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news in every corner of the earth. (Chorus)

By faith this mountain shall be moved and the power of the gospel shall prevail,
For we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon His name. (Chorus)

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD TO MAKE DISCIPLES

The Benediction — Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him, who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Dismissal — Having been renewed by the liberating power of God's grace in the gospel, let us go from here to live as free people, serving one another in 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.

Missionary of the Month

Our missions prayer focus for May is New Life Solutions Pregnancy Centers. Pray for Executive Director, Charles DiMarco and the New Life Solutions staff, that God would use this ministry to save unborn human life and extend His transforming grace to those who come to them for help.

The James Club

The James Club group of Alcoholics Anonymous is a Christ-centered outreach ministry of SPPC. It meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 in the fellowship hall. For more information, contact Kyle Krueger at kkruieger@bloomberg.net.

“Wednesdays in the Word” Begins June 5

Be part of SPPC’s “Wednesdays in the Word” series, beginning June 7. This course will deepen your understanding and appreciation of the gospel. We’ll enjoy a pizza dinner at 6:00, followed by a brief video and discussion around the tables. Books are available for purchase for \$10 each. For more information contact Pastor Alex at a.woods@stpetepca.org. Also, if you would like to help with childcare during some of the sessions, please let Alex know. Sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall.

SPPC Short-Term Mission Trip

Join us for a short-term mission trip Monday, June 3 through Friday, June 7 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 this week.

Women’s Ministry Events

- May 17, Women’s dinner at BJ’s in Pinellas Park. 6:30 p.m. Contact Kelly Rogers if you’d like to be there Kelly.lynn.rogers6@gmail.com
- June 2, Baby Diaper Shower for Lindsey Hutchinson after church. Because Sam and Lindsey are being assigned to a new post in California this summer, please consider giving a gift card.
- June 4, 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall: Summer book club for 8 weeks. “Praying the Bible,” by Donald S. Whitney. For questions, see Laura Oates.

THIS WEEK AT SPPC

Sunday (May 5)

- 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 — South Tampa, (813) 767-8451

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
- 6:45 p.m. Jones Community Group — Safety Harbor (901) 864-8877
- 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

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|------------------|----------------|---------|
| Monday, May 6 | 2 Samuel 4-6 | Luke 20 |
| Tuesday, May 7 | 2 Samuel 7-9 | Luke 21 |
| Wednesday, May 8 | 2 Samuel 10-12 | Luke 22 |
| Thursday, May 9 | 1 Samuel 13-15 | Luke 23 |
| Friday, May 10 | 2 Samuel 16-18 | Luke 24 |
| Saturday, May 11 | Psalm 55-57 | |

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

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 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 | | |