

The Order for the Worship of God
The Lord's Day
July 28, 2024
10:15 a.m.

Reflection

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason, the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most important fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like.

— A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?
Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?
For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen.
Romans 11:33-36

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

The Welcome and Announcements — Alex Woods, Associate Pastor

The Passing of the Peace — We who were once alienated from God and without hope in this world, have been brought near to him and one another by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace. Therefore, let us greet and welcome one another with the peace of Christ.

The Call to Worship God — from Psalm 34 and 95

Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

All: **Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and worship him with music and song. Let us praise the name of the LORD.**

All Creatures of Our God and King

Sovereign Grace Music

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

He shall return in pow'r to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
O praise Him! Allelujah!
Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Allelujah! Allelujah! Allelujah!

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.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

WE CONFESS TOGETHER WHAT WE BELIEVE

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, what is our assurance that our heavenly Father loves us with an everlasting love that will never let us go?

All: For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person, though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die. But, God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. And we are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

from Romans 5:6-8 and 8:38-39

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

Words: George Matheson, 1882, Music: Christopher Miner

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

WE REPENT OF OUR SINS AND RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY

The Call to Confession — Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

The Public Confession of Sin

Merciful Father, you know us better than we know ourselves. We cannot hide from you, though we often try. We have pursued our identity, security, and comfort in the empty promises of this world rather than trusting your sovereign grace and shepherd-like care for us. We have failed to love others well because we have forgotten your faithful love for us in Jesus. Father, please forgive our flagrant unbelief and disobedience. Grip us afresh with your covenant promises, purchased for us by Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and sealed to us by your Spirit. Cause us to trust, obey, desire, and love you more than anything or anyone. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

The Assurance of God's Forgiveness in Jesus Christ—1 Peter 2:22-25

He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Leader: Hear and believe and rejoice in the good news of the gospel: Through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, all your sins are forgiven and you are accepted and loved by God, now and forever!

All: Thanks be to God for his great mercy and love!

He Will Hold Me Fast

Lyrics by Ada Ruth Habershon, 1906; music by Matthew Merker, 2013

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

Chorus

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. *Chorus*

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last! *Chorus*

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
“Knowing the God Who Knows You”
Psalm 139
Rev. Dr. David Harding

O Lord, you have searched me and known me! ²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ³You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. ⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! ⁹If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. ¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” ¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

¹³For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. ¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

¹⁹Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! ²⁰They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain. ²¹Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? ²²I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies. ²³Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

The Big Idea: Psalm 139 is king David’s personal prayer and song of praise to God who knows all things, and therefore knows us better than we know ourselves. It is our greatest joy and comfort to know and be known by God through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

SERMON NOTES

1. God knows you intimately (1-6)

2. God is with you constantly (7-12)

3. God made you intricately (13-18)

4. God judges you righteously (19-24)

WE COMMUNE WITH JESUS CHRIST IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Session (council of elders) of St. Petersburg Presbyterian Church welcomes to the Lord's Table all baptized Christians who are members in good standing of this or another church where the Biblical gospel is loved and proclaimed. Come joyfully and thankfully to this feast of the Lord's Table, recognizing that your standing before the Father is completely dependent upon the grace and righteousness of Jesus Christ, the Reality behind this meal, and not your own merits.

The Words of Institution

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.

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Sandra McCracken, 2015

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the LORD our God
We are not consumed, by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up (Chorus)

In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength (Chorus)

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom. (Chorus)

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.

Be Thou My Vision

Dallan Forgaill, 8th century

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Battle Shield, Sword for my fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight,
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my High Tow'r;
Raise Thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD TO MAKE DISCIPLES

The Benediction — Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

The Dismissal — Having been nourished and strengthened by the grace of God in the gospel, let us go from here to live in the comfort and joy that He knows us and loves us deeply in Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

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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 July 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 kkrueger@bloomberg.net.

“Wednesdays in the Word”

Take advantage of our summer “Wednesdays in the Word” series at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We enjoy a casual pizza dinner together, followed by a discussion of the book, *Share the Gospel*. Childcare is available.

Men’s Summer Fellowship

Join a prayer-centered men’s fellowship, “*For a Purpose*,” from 7-8 a.m. Sessions will be on Thursday, Aug. 8 and 22. Contact Ed Amley at edamleydds@aol.com for questions and materials.

Women’s Ministry

- **Summer book club** at the church on Monday evenings, 6:30-8:00 p.m. through July 29.
- **Dinner at BJ’s** in Pinellas Park on August 15 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Diaper Shower** for Amanda and Joe Chumbley on August 18. (They’re registered on Amazon)
- **Tuesday morning Bible Study** begins September 10. Books and sign-ups are available in the Fellowship hall now. For questions, contact Laura Jenkins at babyben2004@yahoo.com Childcare is available.
- **February 7-8, 2025:** Save the date for the Women’s Retreat in Ellenton, FL. Reach out to Jennifer Walsh (813) 523-1806 if you’d like to help with planning!

Calling all SPPC Musicians

In Psalm 81, Asaph exhorts musicians to *Sing aloud to God our strength; Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp. Blow the trumpet.* As our SPPC family grows, we would like to see our team of musicians grow as well. If you have a heart to worship and God has gifted you with singing and/or instrumental skills, please prayerfully consider becoming a part of the Worship Team. We are looking for singers, keyboardists, guitarists, drummers, string and horn players. Middle schoolers and up who have an interest or desire more information, please contact Donna Grabill at donnagrabil@gmail.com or talk with her after the service.

THIS WEEK AT SPPC

Sunday (July 28)

9:30 a.m. Congregational Prayer — meets in classroom by fellowship hall

10:15 a.m. Corporate Worship, followed by Fellowship Time

Monday

6:30 p.m. Women's Summer Book Club

Tuesday

7:30 p.m. James Club — A Christ-centered outreach ministry for those struggling with alcohol and drug addictions. They meet in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Wednesdays in the Word — pizza dinner begins at 6 in the fellowship hall

SPPC Community Bible Reading Calendar

Monday, July 29	Job 15-17	1 Corinthians 12
Tuesday, July 30	Job 18-20	1 Corinthians 13
Wednesday, July 31	Job 21-23	1 Corinthians 14
Thursday, August 1	Job 24-26	1 Corinthians 15
Friday, August 2	Job 27-29	1 Corinthians 16
Saturday, August 3	Psalm 91-93	

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
	Mike Thornhill	727-565-3302
Deacons	John Howat	727-504-0587
	Robert Jones	901-864-8877
	David 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	David Harding	727-434-9048
Mercy Ministry	David Shadle	610-217-8718
Missions Team	Bob Berry	407-920-7412
Safety Team	Michael Goodnight	727-580-8960
Sound/Video Team	Brad Grabill	727-560-8960
Women's Ministry	Laura Jenkins	727-542-8597
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
Gregg and Julie Nicholson	Mesa Global	Thailand
Derrick and Katie	Serge	North Africa
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
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		