

The Order for the Worship of God
The Lord's Day
September 22, 2024
10:15 a.m.

Reflection

“The argument in a nutshell is simply this: God established His church in the days of Abraham and put children into it. They must remain there until He puts them out. He has nowhere put them out. They are still the members of His church, and as such entitled to its ordinances. Among these ordinances is baptism, which standing in similar place in the New [Testament] to circumcision in the Old, is like it to be given to children.”

— B.B. Warfield, *The Polemics of Infant Baptism*

Men are never duly touched and impressed with a conviction of their insignificance until they have contrasted themselves with the majesty of God.

— John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

The Welcome and Announcements

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 96 — Pastor Alex Woods

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

All: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts!

Leader: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

All: Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!”

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.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

WE CONFESS TOGETHER WHAT WE BELIEVE

Heidelberg Catechism Questions 68, 69, 72, 73

Leader: How many sacraments has Christ instituted in the new covenant?

All: Two: holy baptism and the holy supper.

Leader: How does holy baptism signify and seal to you that the one sacrifice of Christ on the cross benefits you?

All: In this way: Christ instituted this outward washing and with it gave the promise that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly His blood and Spirit wash away the impurity of my soul, that is, all my sins.

Leader: Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?

All: No, only the blood of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.

Leader: Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins?

All: God speaks in this way for a good reason. He wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ remove our sins just as water takes away dirt from the body. But, even more important, He wants to assure us by this divine pledge and sign that we are as truly cleansed from our sins spiritually as we are bodily washed with water.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Reginald Heber

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity

WE OBSERVE THE PROMISES OF THE GOSPEL IN BAPTISM

Ben and Molly Mallue bring their infant son, Rory Mallue, to receive the sacrament of baptism, God's sign and seal of His covenant of grace.

Covenant Questions to the Parents

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate him to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with him and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of the Christian faith, and that you will strive, by all the means God has appointed, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Covenant Question to the Congregation

Do you, the members of this congregation, undertake the privilege and responsibility of assisting Ben and Molly in the Christian nurture of Rory?

WE REPENT OF OUR SINS AND RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY

The Call to Confession—Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

The Public Confession of Sin

Eternal and merciful God, You have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and You have set us on paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Yet, we have strayed from Your way; we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, through what we have done and what we have left undone, and we have wandered from Your pathway. As we remember the cleansing water of baptism, O God, we praise You and give You thanks that You forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, who lives and reigns with You, and in whose strong name we pray. Amen.

— John Calvin

Silent Prayers of Confession

The Assurance of God's Forgiveness in Jesus Christ — Ezekiel 36:25-27

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Leader: Hear and believe and rejoice in the good news of the gospel: through faith in Jesus Christ, all your sins are forgiven, now and forever!

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

Before the Throne of God Above

Charitie Bancroft, 1863

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea,
A Great High Priest Whose name is Love, Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heaven He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there, Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable "I AM", the King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ my Savior and my God.

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
“Seeing the King”
Isaiah 6:1-13**

Michael Thornhill, Ruling Elder

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

⁸And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” ⁹And he said, “Go, and say to this people: “Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.” ¹⁰Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

¹¹Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said: “Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste, ¹²and the LORD removes people far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. ¹³And though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak, whose stump remains when it is felled.” The holy seed is its stump.

The Big Idea: Because God is on the throne, His people can have hope in His plan of redemption for the world.

SERMON NOTES

I. God is Sovereign

II. God is Gracious

III. God is Missional

Questions for personal reflection and family/Community Group discussion:

1. How did worshiping with God's people on Sunday morning minister to you? What elements of the worship service were particularly meaningful? Why?
2. How does God's sovereignty over the universe give us confidence, even in time of political, economical, societal instability (like when godly King Uzziah died)?
3. What does holy mean? Why do the seraphim say it three times? Why would you say that holiness is the most important attribute of God for us sinners to embrace?
4. What effect did this awesome heavenly scene have on Isaiah? How should a proper contemplation of the holiness of the Lord result in a humble awareness of our sinfulness? Why is such an ongoing awareness both reasonable and necessary to our full and final salvation from sin?
5. How is your experience of God like Isaiah's: Awestruck? Guilt-ridden? Cleansed? Are you willing to serve anywhere, anytime?
6. How does Isaiah's day compare to our own?

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.

Behold the Lamb

Keith and Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend, 2006

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us: and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.

Chorus

So we share in this Bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life, paid the price to make us one.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.

As we share in His suffering, we proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King.

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.

Behold Our God

Sovereign Grace Music, 2010

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come, let us adore Him
Behold our King — nothing can compare
Come, let us adore Him

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds? (Chorus)

Who has felt the nails upon His hands?
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign (Chorus)

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD TO MAKE DISCIPLES

The Benediction — From Philippians 1:2

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Dismissal — Having been equipped and empowered by the good news of God's grace in the gospel, let us go from here to live as his fully devoted followers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

All — Thanks be to God!

Please join us following the service for refreshments 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.

Membership Matters Class, September 27th - 28th



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 September 27-28. Please register online at the church website, www.stpetepca.org/nurture/membershipmatters. Contact Pastor Alex for more information (a.woods@stpetepca.org).

Angels Aware!

MUSICAL for SPPC kids - Ages 3-HS; Sunday, December 22, 9AM. We are preparing a special musical offering for Christmas that includes all the kids of SPPC. Before we can begin, we need to have at least 18-20 of our SPPC kids committed to be involved. The musical takes us through the beginnings of the Gospel in the OT up to the birth of Jesus from the perspective of the angels. Rehearsal times are to be determined. Digital recordings will be provided for learning songs at home. Please let Donna know by Sunday, September 29, if you are interested in having your kids participate in this joyous musical celebration of Christ's birth!! (donnagrabil@gmail.com)

Adult Sunday School: Kingdoms in Conflict

Jesus announced that with his arrival, his ministry and miracles, the promised kingdom of God had come “on earth as it is in heaven.” We, as followers of Jesus, are citizens of his kingdom. However, we continue to live as citizens of this world at the same time. This raises all sorts of challenges. How do we live out this dual citizenship? How does this impact our political engagement? What role does the church play in relation to civil society? How do we avoid being taken in by the kingdoms of this world? In this class, we will wrestle together over these issues exploring what the Scriptures have to say.

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.

Missionary of the Month

Our mission of the month is the Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at USF, Tampa campus. Pray that God would use Aldo Mondin, Becca Romano and the RUF ministry to bring a gospel awakening among the students and faculty.

THIS WEEK AT SPPC

Sunday (September 22)

- 8:30 a.m. Congregational Prayer — meets in classroom by Fellowship Hall
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:15 a.m. Corporate Worship, followed by Fellowship Time

Tuesday

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Jenkins Community Group
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

- 5:30 p.m. Krueger Community Group
6:30 p.m. Berry Community Group

Thursday

- 6:30 Belvin Community Group

Friday

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Membership Matters (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday

- 8:30 a.m. Membership Matters

SPPC Community Bible Reading Calendar

Monday, Sept. 23	Isaiah 42-44	1 Thess. 3
Tuesday, Sept. 24	Isaiah 45-47	1 Thess. 4
Wednesday, Sept. 25	Isaiah 48-50	1 Thess. 5
Thursday, Sept. 26	Isaiah 51-53	2 Thess. 1
Friday, Sept. 27	Isaiah 54-56	2 Thess. 2
Saturday, Sept. 28	Psalm 115-117	

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		