

WORSHIP for October 18, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) To watch **sermons recorded** on Zoom on our YouTube Channel, go to the FPCP website: <https://www.fpcpataskala.com/> and click on WORSHIP or follow us on Facebook from the homepage. To potentially increase subscribers & views,  like and  share!
- 2) Please invite family or friends, who want to join us for live worship on Sundays @10:45am, to request access by emailing their name, email, & phone number to fpcopataskala@gmail.com
- 3) If you need a COVID-19 **cloth mask** call 740-901-1232 for the Johnsons, who lead the CRT. Thank you to Gage Marcum and Katie Slaymaker, who have been making masks available.
- 4) Junior Church & Good News Club (by FPCP) New Lessons on Zoom for 2nd thru 5th graders 4:30-5:30pm Thursdays 10/22-11/19;
Lead Teacher: Linda Glenn; email: lindaifglenn@gmail.com
- 5) **11/1 Celebration of the founding of FPCP with presentation of history and hymn sing on zoom worship!**
- 6) **Memories of bearing witness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, through Sally's character & actions after Zoom worship on 11/8 (week prior to family celebration @ FPCP on 11/14).**

Prelude played by Laura Keesor, "Interlude 1"

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQ2UscICUcU&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCeI331DmVVU&index=17&t=0s

Call to Worship: Psalm 79:13 Responsively

*Then we your people,
the sheep of your pasture will praise you forever;
From generation to generation we will proclaim your praise.*

Opening Hymn: "My Jesus I Love Thee"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqFOsOPj9uk>

Prayer of Confession: Unison

You have given us thru your Spirit, Scripture to guide our daily living, but we admit that rather than looking first to you through your word for direction, we look elsewhere. We look to the wisdom of persons, ourselves or others, rather than to you, thru whom all true wisdom comes. Forgive our foolishness and sin. Amen

(Pause now for a time of silent confession.)

Assurance of Forgiveness: Responsively

We are assured in your word. "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." (1Corinthians 1:18.) We believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

“The Gloria Patri”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD_m4OhU

Hymn of Preparation: “In My Life, Lord”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5bpU3hzMXs>

Call to God’s Word: *Unison*

“Scripture cannot be set aside... What does Scripture say?” John 10:35 & Romans 4:3.

Prayer for Illumination: *Unison*

Lord, through your Spirit enable us to consider your Word, and to enact it in our lives to bring you glory and praise. Amen.

Gospel Reading: 1 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-4:16; 6:11-16, 20-21 (NIV)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=1+timothy&version=NIV>

SERMON: “Godliness” by The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford

Watch sermon on: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAdy2hvW6PL93B6hbgsTwxf93Evs575yd>

Paul’s letters to the pastors Timothy & Titus build up the church, as Jesus spoke about in Matthew 16 & 18. But sermons on Paul’s 1st letter to Timothy are challenging to write. The 1st 2 sermons in 1 Timothy were not, since talking & hearing about love & giving thanks are welcome topics that were conveyed in a straightforward manner in the letter. Even the 3rd sermon on qualifications for ruling elders & deacons, a subject studied ahead of preaching, was less challenging. But then the last sections of Paul’s letter at first glance seem haphazard and scattered. Topics seem to jump from why Paul writes Timothy, to warnings on deception, to teaching, to behavior with younger and older men and with older and younger women, to the treatment of widows and slaves, and the love of money, with sundry minor topics scattered throughout. Therefore, these last 2 sermons from 1 Timothy 3:14 thru the end of the letter took numerous drafts, before God’s messages for today & next Sunday were discerned. But once able to see the letter as a cohesive whole rather than seemingly disconnected topics, messages flowed. That is the wonderful gift of preaching in order through the entirety of a book of the Bible. For example, we saw that progressing this way thru the Gospel of Matthew, unfolded patterns & themes in Jesus’ ministry that could not otherwise be easily seen. The same is true with Paul’s letters to Timothy. There is an overarching theme, of godly conduct among followers of Christ, especially those in leadership. Last week we heard instructions to overseers and deacons. That same theme continues these next two weeks.

Godliness and lack thereof is a biblical theme. The opposite of godliness is godlessness or wickedness. For my personal devotions, I am in the book of Jeremiah, the prophet. Just this week I read how Jeremiah warrants in 23:11, the exile of the Hebrews from Israel to Babylon due to the godlessness of even prophets and priests.

Likewise, for this week the focus is on the biblical theme of godliness or purity. The

theme is divulged at the letter's start. In 1:5 Paul states that love "comes from a pure heart & a good conscience & sincere faith.

Then numerous qualifications for overseers & deacons are named. In 3:2: Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, & respectable, for example. In 3:12: A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well.

After these, in 3:14-16 Paul gives reason for his instructions. Here he indicates how godliness springs from Jesus & the Holy Spirit. In other words, godliness is comparable to "a pure heart & a good conscience & sincere faith."

In 4:1-16 Paul gives contrasting examples of godlessness. Here Paul calls special attention to the need to focus on godliness and purity, which are virtually synonymous traits.

Then the focus on godliness & purity continues into ch. 5. In 5:2, Paul speaks of the need to treat "younger women as sisters, with absolute purity." Then, in vv. 11 & 14 Paul counsels younger widows to marry. This coincides with the need for purity, a good conscience, & godliness. To reiterate, purity in godliness is the main focus of the letter & today's sermon. To act otherwise damages not just pastoral relationship, but also relationships with God & eternal wellbeing. Boundaries in ministry are necessary. Unfortunately, since a student in seminary & beyond, I have witnessed boundaries crossed on more occasions than I have fingers on my hands. In fact, while on recent leave one of my best friends called for prayer since the pastor of church just admitted to adultery. The consequences of departing from purity are damaging to not just the pastor & members, but also to families & children. Entire congregation suffer for years, even generations, following a breach. Whole books & training events are written on the sin of crossing boundaries. Presbyteries wisely offer training on boundaries. Pastors are required, & training is advised for congregations. Because breaches are often hidden under the proverbial rug, some congregations never heal. They may even repeat the pattern again & again, lack of purity spreads thru the congregation. The frequency of these matters often leave installed pastors wondering what is going on, having to take the role instead of unintentional interim. In fact, having encountered the issue far too frequently, I took interim training in the context of being an installed pastor, sadly due to facing these very issues.

Fortunately, when I was interviewed for my first pastoral position, the PNC asked if I would live within the requirement to practice purity, that is fidelity in marriage and chastity in singleness. This was a mandated clause within the PCUSA constitution before 2010. But since the General Assembly decision 10 years ago to remove the clause, membership within the denomination has been cut nearly in half.

Please know though that when a member of the FPCP PNC paraphrased questions to me pertaining to 1 Timothy, I was not offended in the least. I am glad to be the pastor of a church that adheres to Scriptural authority. Unfortunately, not all churches do. Paul's letters show that these issues existed from the early church. They are issues still today. Please earnestly pray for your pastor, teachers, overseers, & deacons to maintain purity, one of our vows as church leaders. Please also pray for purity among the greater church. Pray for the strength to resist temptation. Pray for repentance, restoration, repair, & renewal. Please prayer for healing in the broken Body of Christ.

Finally, we come to Paul's final charge to Timothy, echoing what has already been said about purity, a good conscience, & godliness. Close with **6:11-16**.

Hymn of Response: "Take Time to Be Holy"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFApbg-wcmE>

PRAYERS of Joy and Concern, followed by:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please Continue to Give in Dedication to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus

Prayer Of Dedication: Unison

God, in view of your mercy help us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to you, O God. Amen. *Romans 12:1*

Doxology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqpXWF15avU>

Closing Hymn: "Ye Servants of God"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvnIQ15og3M>

Benediction: Responsively

May the Word of God guide us, as we go forth into the world to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**