



WORSHIP for November 15, 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 fpcofpataskala@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) To pack an OCC shoebox for \$25 thru 11/23 go online to: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>
OR make a cash donation thru 12/15, by writing OCC on your envelope or in the memo area of your check to FPCP.
- 5) **Give to FPCP** while shopping for Christmas or for any time at smile.amazon.com. .5% of purchases go to FPCP, when you register for FPCP by going to this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1143651>
For the church to get credit, you have to enter thru the link above the first time. Then always go to **smile.amazon.com** to shop under your amazon account.
- 6) Please **deposit by morning of Nov 29 New or Gently Used Shoes** into plastic bin outside church under overhang @ red doors of FPCP in front of elevator. The shoe collection helps ecologically & will also be sent to help micro-businesses in developing nations around the world. In addition, the effort helps fundraising for local community efforts @ Beechwood Parks & Pool.
- 7) **A memorial fund for Sally Seiberling has been established for the purpose of handicapped accessibility.** To contribute, denote Seiberling memorial in the memo area of your check and/or on your envelope.
- 8) "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." *John 1:5*
Please bring a candle to light during zoom worship during Advent thru Christmas **11/29-12/24**. The candle may be real or battery operated.
- 9) One "Zoom" Schoolhouse **for all ages 10-10:30am Sundays** as we "**Walk with Jesus Thru Israel**" with photos from Pastor Janet's 2008 trip to the Holy Land and corresponding study of Scripture **starts 1st Sunday of Advent 11/29**.

Prelude played & sung by Brent Miller, "Word of God Speak"

Word of God Speak, played by Brent Miller; Streaming CCLI 20373701; © Copyright 2002 Songs from the Indigo Room (adm. Woodspring Music, Inc.) and Simpleville Music, Peter Kipley & MercyMe. MOV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vivOZEohhM>

Call to Worship: Psalm 119:89-90 *Responsively*
Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.
Your faithfulness continues through all generations;

you established the earth, and it endures.

Opening Hymn: **“Cleanse Me”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55voUa0u8Vc>

Prayer of Confession: *Unison*

Lord, we confess that we resort to other sources for guidance rather than you. Perhaps TV or Internet, books or magazines, friends or family, and many more. Forgive us and help us to seek you first, Jesus. Amen. (*Pause now for a time of silent confession.*)

Assurance of Forgiveness: Psalm 18:1-2 *Responsively*

Jesus you died to take away our sins.

You sent your Holy Spirit to live within us to change our hearts, turning us from sin, and turning us to you. 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: “Break Thou the Bread of Life”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAZrT8SVYBM>

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.

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:14-3:17

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+timothy+2%3A14-3%3A17&version=NIV>

SERMON: “Scripture to Make You Wise” by *The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford*

Watch sermon on: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAdy2hvW6PL93B6hbgswTxf93Evs575yd>

A longtime symbol of wisdom is the owl. Throughout Greece are statues, depicting the ancient goddess of wisdom, Athena, holding an owl in her hand. Modern versions of wise owls even dwell in television commercials. There is the owner Earl Wise who wisely found a use for excess potatoes in manufacturing potato chips. Wise potato chips are represented since 1921 by the Wise owl. In 1960 came X the Owl on Mr. Roger’s “Children’s Corner,” later to become “Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood.” Woodsy the Owl showed up on earth day in 1971 to partner with Smoky the Bear in fighting against pollution, and kept his job to nearly the turn of the century. In 1969 Mr. Owl on one of the longest running commercials tried to answer the question of

how many licks it took to get to the center of a tootsie pop. He is making TV appearances once again. Owls also have starring roles in current advertisements for: America's Best Eyeglasses, Trip Advisor and the allergy medicine XYZAL, and are also in the cast of Geico ads. A wise owl is also the mascot of Western Governors University in Utah. But since real owls don't actually talk, where do humans really go to seek wisdom?

Humans seek other humans, who have the reputation of being knowledgeable & wise. To name some, alleged "wise" persons may be: advisors, advise columnists, authors, bloggers, diviners, elders, guides, gurus, illuminati, Internet contributors, magi, masters, mediums, oracles, philosophers, prophets, psychics, rabbis, sages, savants, scholars, seers, spiritists & teachers. From the beginning of time, humans have desired knowledge & wisdom. Thus, Eve & Adam disobey & eat from the tree of the knowledge of good & evil, having been tempted by the serpent there. In Scripture, rather than the owl, the serpent is the creature represented as wise and cunning.

Paul writes to Timothy who traveled with him throughout Greece, where there were temples to Apollos, god of war, greater than his sister, Athena. Since 1400BC in Delphi, believed to be the center of the world, was a great temple to Apollos, where commanders of armies sought counsel before going to war. There lived Pythia, the high priestess & oracle, consulted by those in high power throughout the Greco-Roman world. The root of her knowledge & wisdom was the demon Pythos, like the serpent from the original garden. More of the following when at the start of 2021 we hear messages from Paul's letter to Ephesus, but in Acts is an account of Paul setting a slave girl in Corinth free from this spirit of Pythos. But Jesus warns in Matthew 10:16, "Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." Any source of wisdom, not from the true God, is not the wisdom to seek. When wisdom comes from human sources or worse, it is not pure & innocent.

From the reliable source of Scripture, we understand the only source of true & pure wisdom is God. Therefore, in 2Chronicles 1:10 King Solomon asks God: "Give me wisdom & knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?" Pray that all leaders of governments seek the same! In v. 12 God answers Solomon's prayer giving wisdom & knowledge to Solomon & more. Like his father David who wrote many of the Psalms, Solomon continues the legacy of composing "wisdom" literature. In Proverbs 9:10-11 he writes: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life."

To the believers in the church of Corinth, the location of another temple to Apollo like in Delphi, Paul writes another letter. In his letter he divulges that the Holy Spirit as the source of all gifts. Hear what Paul writes in 1Cor 12:1-8.

Wisdom & knowledge are gifts from the Holy Spirit. Scripture reveals this. But note since there are others sources, like the serpent in the garden and Pythos at the temple of Apollo in Delphi all wisdom & knowledge must be tested against Scripture. Remember the slave girl in Corinth influenced by Pythos. The source may not be from the Holy Spirit, but from human or unclean spirits. Again be wise as snakes and innocent of doves! Test knowledge & wisdom to discern if it is from the Holy Spirit.

To conclude today's message, hear again what writes at the finish of our passage:
"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Lord, bring us wisdom thru your Spirit, according to your God-breathed Word. Amen!.

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

Hymn of Response: "God of Grace and God of Glory"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYaJ1CYbn1c>

Send requests to fpcofpataskala@gmail.com or text Pastor Janet @ 412-877-8310.

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*

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: "Thy Word"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FS1LAc5DSCU>

Benediction: *Responsively*

With the word of God to guide daily living, go forth into the world to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. **Amen.**

