

## 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. There is also now often the ability to click on CC to view **closed captioning** on YouTube for those with hearing impairment. To potentially increase subscribers & views, also please 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 [fpcpataskala@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpataskala@gmail.com)
- 3) **New Adult/Youth Study** 10-10:30am Sundays on Zoom 2/21-3/28. Email [fpcpataskala@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpataskala@gmail.com) to register by 1/31 to purchase curriculum: Daniel Pursuing Integrity.
- 4) January is Awareness of Human Sex Trafficking Month. A speaker from **Gracehaven** came to Zoom worship on 1/3. There numerous ways to help, including giving. Those interested can donate to FPC with Gracehaven in the memo area of their check. **Giving** can also be done on the website: [www.gracehaven.me](http://www.gracehaven.me) and participating in the Blueprint for Hope fundraising campaign there.
- 5) While **Pastor Janet is on leave** from 1/20-31, please continue to email prayer requests to: [fpcpataskala@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpataskala@gmail.com) and leave phone messages at the church office, as needed. Both will be checked each morning and evening.

## WORSHIP for January 17, 2021

**Prelude** played by Collin Richardson, “**All Creatures of Our God and King**”

Streaming CCLI 20373701; St Francis of Assisi 1225; public domain

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OX\\_eYGtEQz8&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8\\_1itXDbTRrCeI331DmVVU&index=7&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OX_eYGtEQz8&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCeI331DmVVU&index=7&t=0s)

**Call to Worship:** Psalm 16:5-8 *Responsively*

*Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.*

***The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;***

***surely I have a delightful inheritance.***

*I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.*

**I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

Opening Hymn: “**Bind Us Together, Lord**”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emCaGJfM0gs>

**Prayer of Confession:** Ephesians 2:1-3 *Responsively*

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

**All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.**  
*(Pause now for a time of silent confession.)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness:** Ephesians 2:4-10 *Responsively*

*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgression – it is by grace you have been saved.*

**And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.**

**In order that in the coming he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.**

*For it is by grace you have been saved through faith – and this is not from yourselves.*

**It is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.**

**For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

**“The Gloria Patri”**

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

**Hymn of Preparation: “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqOnjmr9Ah0>

**“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 Readings: Ephesians 3:13-4:13**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+3%3A13-4%3A13&version=NIV>

**SERMON: “Keep the Unity”** by *The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford*

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

Paul speaks of unity in the church or in the family of God that comes through the power of the Holy Spirit, which brings us into common union or communion. This power is love. The Spirit enables a powerful bond, rooted in love. The Spirit is a body builder! The power builds us up as the body of Christ held together as one.

In contrast, think of what happens if someone builds without a powerful bond? Castles of sand disintegrate. Houses of cards fall. Building blocks are easily toppled by even a small toddler. And cookies crumble. Try baking with gluten free flour. Without a binding agent, cookies turn into a pile of dust when removed from the baking sheet. Try making balls of powder sugar covered wedding cookies with rice flour without xanthan gum or another binding ingredient and see.

So the world is filled with products invented to hold things together. To name several. There are paper clips, rubber bands, staplers and tape for the office. There is thread to sew together seams of cloth. There are cords, ties, and ropes. There are nails, mortar, bolts, rivets & gussets. There is super glue, strong epoxy and welding.

God also designed systems of holding his creation together. Ligaments hold our bones together. Tendons hold our muscles in place. Membranes and muscles contain our core organs. Atoms are held together

by strong chemical bonds & proteins.

However, the church is not a literal and physical building. The church is God's family, comprised of individuals held together spiritually. The church is a common unity, a community, of people, who are believers in Christ.

This community of faith is born anew in Christ, represented by baptism by water, a one time work that seals us into the family of God. Like water activates the sealing power of glue on an envelope. Our coming into God's family is one and done. As Paul says, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

Though our coming into God's family is one and done, Paul also exhorts, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Before this he writes, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." In other words, although there is one baptism, the Spirit is not done in that one work. The Spirit continues to take us through a process of transformation. He is not finished with us yet and won't be finished until Christ comes again. He grows and matures us to bear fruit of love, peace, patience, gentleness and more. For these we must make an effort. Not that we gain salvation through work and effort, but as we make an effort to cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit we grow and mature. More on this in a couple of weeks.

We also make an effort as we cooperate in accepting the power of the Holy Spirit, for without the power there is not unity.

Finally we cannot have unity alone. We have unity with God and other believers. We have unity in common unity, in common union, in communion. John in his first letter which we heard last year refers to this unity as koinonia or fellowship. Again fellowship is so much more than coffee and cookies. Fellowship is the bond of peace that comes through the Holy Spirit to the body of Christ.

In a time like this, when the world is so divided, we surely need to realize hope in Christ and unity of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings us to faith in Christ and builds oneness and unity in the church. So like Paul prayed for the Ephesians, let us pray for every family, for everyone on earth, to know Jesus and to experience the bond of the Holy Spirit. Let us, like Paul, pray for the bond of peace. Let us pray that the presence of God: the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit is fully welcomed and received by all.

The world may try to tell us that unity comes in everyone believing what they want. But truth is that the identity of the true God: Father, Son and the Holy Spirit is revealed in Scripture alone. Scripture reveals the one body, the one Spirit, the one hope, the one Lord, the one faith, the one baptism, and the one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." And so Paul begins the passage inspired through the Holy Spirit with prayer. "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family heaven and on earth derives its name."

This is why at baptism Jesus instructs, "Baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Those who are baptized in the one family God receive for once and for all a new family name, the name of God.

Although baptism is only once, communion is ongoing. We come to the family table over and over again as a sign of our being one in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. After we share communion, then let us profess our faith in the first written creed, the Nicene Creed, written for the entire universal Christian church at communion.

## COMMUNION

**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.**

**Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed *Unison***

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. and was buried. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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=wSshNIuVPbA>

**Closing Hymn: "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds"**

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

**Benediction: Ephesian 6:23-24 *Responsively***

Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love,... in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**