

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.
- 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) Monthly **training for FPCP elders & deacons**. The 1st training session is Ash Wednesday **2/17/2021 6:30-8PM** thru our Zoom worship invitation. Please read preface & ch. 1 thru pg. 44.

WORSHIP for February 7, 2021

Prelude played by Brent Miller, **“Find Us Faithful”**

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynN_rO7_KsY&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCeI331DmVVU&index=1

Call to Worship: Psalm 51:15-17 *Responsively*

Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it,
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

Opening Hymn: **“Jesus Calls Us”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYIQw8w2TEw>

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=dgcYD_m4OhU

Hymn of Preparation: "Be Still My Soul"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPDPUoxyIP4>

"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 6:1-4, Colossians 3:20-21 and Ephesians 4:7-16

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+6%3A1-4&version=NIV>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A20-21&version=NIV>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A7-16&version=NIV>

Sermon Illustration: "I Won't Grow Up"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiW-kWFz_5I

SERMON: "No Longer Be Infants" by The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford

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

As the song goes, Peter Pan is a boy who refuses to grow up. He also invites others to join him in the endeavor of an eternal childhood in Neverland. But Wendy the eldest Darling child knows that she cannot remain a girl forever, so she, John, and Michael leave Neverland and return home to England.

According to Scripture, there are children in God's family. We are children of God. Scripture also divulges that unless we become LIKE a child, we will not inherit the kingdom of heaven. But the Biblical encouragement to become like a child has to do with humility and trust, not in remaining immature. We are to grow up in Christ. To grow in the fruit of the Spirit. We are to mature, as adult children of God.

The illustration for this needed maturity is especially clear in Paul's reference to infants being tossed back and forth by wind and waves. The image is troubling. It calls to mind the order of Pharaoh resulting from his fear of the Hebrew slaves revolting against him. Exodus 1:8-2:10. In the animated movie, "Prince of Egypt," the scene is distressing, with the helpless baby Moses at the mercy of hungry crocodiles and hippos with no power to save himself from the dangers. But God saves Moses from the wind and waves, not only of the Nile but also of Pharaoh's turbulent anger.

But the passage in Ephesians paints a different picture, where the one in the wind and waves is not a helpless infant, but one mature and built up in body. Here we might picture a skilled athlete, who is an experienced open water swimmer, such as those who swam the English Channel, like Englishman Matthew Webb in 1875 and numerous others, including Americans Jon Erikson who in 1981 in 38.5 hours swam across the channel 3x times without stopping and Sarah Thomas who in 9/2019 in 54 hours swam across the channel 4x times without stopping.

But since I don't know Sarah Thomas, for some tips on this sermon, I consulted close friends who are experienced open water swimmers living near the ocean in NJ and especially a friend who competes in NC.

A skilled open water swimmer is less likely to be tossed back & forth by the waves, & blown here & there by every wind. A skilled swimmer has respect for the ocean. A mature swimmer would not enter the ocean in dangerous windy weather. An experienced swimmer would also become acquainted with critters, temperatures, winds, currents, tides &, riptides in the particular body of water in which they swim. Dress as temperatures warrant & with a bright buoy to be seen. Swimming with a buddy is best. In addition a mature swimmer would know the necessity of remaining calm and streamlined. Although waves are a part of the ocean, not being able to be avoided altogether, a skilled swimmer would know how to swim in rhythm with & under the wave and be trained to hold one's breath until the wave passes. To avoid breathing in water, one might to adjust breathing according to the wind. Fighting the wind and the wave in panic is not helpful. One also needs to sight something distant to swim toward.

Although fluke squalls may be brought about by the enemy. Think of the storms that Jesus stilled and rebuked on the sea of galilee. Paul may equate these with false and dangerous teaching. But we as mature believers must be able to discern the cause of the storm. Further in being built up with right training and conditioning thru Christ and his Spirit, we should be able to weather the storm with our only growing stronger in enduring it. Like strong winter winds that enable trees to strengthen in order to bear more fruit.

After all the word in Hebrew and Greek for Spirit also means wind. And the visible sign of the Spirit's presence is baptism by water. We are not foreign to wind and waves. We need to learn how to ride them.

Another person close to me who understood these principles in was my grandfather who had the hobby of piloting a glider plane. He gave up the hobby long before I was born, but had no fear of being up high. When I had just learned to walk and speak, my grandfather was building his home. When I would come to visit, I frequently saw him high on the scaffolding or the roof. I take after my grandfather loving to be up high at the top of skyscrapers, mountains, amusement park rides, in hot air balloons, and in airplanes above the clouds. In fact, apparently my first word was up. I love that movie, too. When I spoke my first word, I was looking up and pointing at my grandfather.

Though open water swimmers descend beneath the waves, I like ascending into the clouds where the wind blows. And even when I can't be up high, I still like looking up. Look for Jesus who ascended on high to once again descend to the earth at his second coming. Until then the wind of the Spirit continues to blow in our lives and hearts, maturing us and building us up. Breath on us breath of God that we act no longer like infants, but as mature believers of Christ

in the faith. Amen.

Hymn of Response: "From Every Stormy Wind that Blows"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueqNvl2Rv0w>

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: "Love Lifted Me"

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

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.**