

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) **A meditative worship service at 7pm on Good Friday 4/2 is on Zoom.** Be aware that the service contains graphic images depicting Jesus' journey to the cross.
- 4) There will be two **worship services on Easter 4/4.** This first service is 8:30am in the sanctuary, by reservation only already filled to the 40 seat capacity. The service, led by ruling elder Curt Hungerford, will last no longer than 30 minutes, including only Scripture & prayer. There is no sermon, which will be included in the 10:45am service on Zoom. There is also likely no music.
- 5) Session is sending a letter to the governor's office requesting that clergy be vaccinated like medical personnel and teachers, like in other states such as PA and KY. Although requests have thus far been respectfully declined by the governor, individuals are invited to write as well. Please send an email to: gofbci@governor.ohio.gov

WORSHIP for February 14, 2021 – Transfiguration Sunday & Valentine's Day

Prelude played by Brent Miller, “Pachelbel’s Canon in D”

Streaming CCLI 20373701; © Copyright 2008 Jon Sarta, All Rights Reserved; Johann Pachelbel; arr by Jon Sarta.MOV

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ffc7XJqI9o&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCel331DmVVU&index=6

Call to Worship: Psalm 130:5-7 *Responsively*

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Israel put your hope in the Lord,

for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

Opening Hymn: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPsxqQsnzJA&list=TLPQMDEwNTIwMjDawnz6aEwPSA&index=1>

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: “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYrTqBiaZ4>

“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: “Husbands & Wives” by The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford

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

Ephesians is about what is to be like in God’s family. God’s family is comprised of human nuclear families, traditionally headed by parents who are husband and wife. The verses from Colossians are on the same topic, but the sermon will walk through verse by verse the more descriptive passage from Ephesians.

Today is Valentine’s day on the secular calendar, as we know. A celebration of eros or romantic love. Gifts of red roses and heart shaped boxes filled with chocolates are popular ways of conveying that love. Love is also put to word with the exchange of Valentine cards, even with children as young as school age... well, at least most years. But Paul clearly conveys that the love about which he speaks is not one merely of sentiment or emotion expressed in words that may be easily said and empty. The love about which Paul speaks is not fleeting, romantic eros love, which people fall into and out of. Paul speaks of agape love. Agape love is

true, unconditional, everlasting, and steadfast enabled only by God. Agape love is not a changing, vacillating emotion. Agape love is an action. Agape love is the action of Christ showing his love to us.

And the Father demonstrates his love of us through his Son, Jesus. The Father's love is not mentioned by Paul in this particular passage, but remember that Ephesians is about family in the context of God's family. The Father and the Son are together as the first two persons in the family of God. Paul opens his letter by writing in 1:2: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Then v. 3: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ch. 1 ends with Paul praying for the Ephesians in the context of our being adopted by the Father into the family of God. In ch. 3 Paul prays again "before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. These points are key, because besides the lesser holiday of Valentine's day, today on the liturgical calendar is the high holy day of transfiguration Sunday. The day when Jesus reflects the glory of the Father in his pre-resurrected body before the eyes of 3 of the disciples: Peter, James, and John. In the accounts of the transfiguration the heavens open up, the glory of the Father comes in a bright cloud, and the Father speaks over his Son Jesus for all to hear: "This is my Son, whom I love, and with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him!" The Father is the one who sent Jesus to show his love to the world. John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son so that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life. But the Father also tells us at the transfiguration that having received God's love we must take action, too. We must heed Christ, following his example. We must demonstrate love by listening to and following the model of the Father's Son Jesus.

In v. 25 of today's passage in Ephesians, Paul describes the action of Jesus: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. In the Gospel accounts, we know this to mean that Jesus died for us, taking onto himself the burden of our sin for forgiveness to come to us. The bridegroom willingly sacrificed his life for the sake of the bride, the church, to be washed clean and presented before God as holy and blameless. In the act of love, Jesus permitted his body to be broken and his blood to be poured out in a sacrificial act of love for us, even when those who "loved" him deserted and betrayed him while he died for them and us on the cross. Jesus is the only one who is perfect in love. The bride is not. The church is not.

But Paul asks Christian husbands to emulate Jesus in the manner in which they love their wives. For to love in any other manner, including with romantic, sentimental gestures of roses and chocolate, is not true love. True love requires the action of husband to exercise love and care over their wives as much as they are to exercise love and care over their own bodies. True love requires husbands to be willing to give up themselves, their very lives, for the sake of their wives. To put their wives first. To love unconditionally and completely, holding nothing back for the sake of their wives. Admittedly, Christ's model of love is impossible for any earthly husband to practice perfectly, due to our still flawed human nature and the image of God broken in us by sin. Nevertheless, it is the goal, stated by Paul, set by God, and exemplified by Christ.

Hymn of Response: "The Wedding Song"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdNPEX7bY-k>

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*

Jesus, Our Savior, In view of your mercy, we offer up our thanks thru giving. Amen.

Doxology

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

Closing Hymn: "A Christian Home"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M20zPqW-aKM&t=74s>

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.**