

## 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 [fpcopataskala@gmail.com](mailto:fpcopataskala@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.** The 1st service is 8:30am in the sanctuary, by reservation only already filled to 40 seat capacity. The service, led by ruling elder Curt Hungerford, will last no longer than 30 minutes, including only Scripture, prayer, and a benediction, which will be a closing hymn outside. The 2<sup>nd</sup> service at 10:45am on zoom will include a sermon and more music.
- 5) Session is sending a letter to the governor's office **requesting that clergy be vaccinated** now like medical personnel and teachers, as 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](mailto:gofbci@governor.ohio.gov)

## **WORSHIP for February 21, 2021**

### **Prelude played by Brent Miller, "Sun of My Soul"**

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

### **Call to Worship:** Psalm 67 *Responsively*

*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us –  
so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.*

**May the people praise you, God; may all the people praise you.**

*May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations of the earth.*

**May the people praise you, God; may all the people praise you.**

*The land yields its harvest; God, our God blesses us.*

**May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

### Opening Hymn: **"Immortal, Invisible"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-I\\_VwA4d44g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-I_VwA4d44g)

### **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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD_m4OhU)

**Hymn of Preparation: “Open My Eyes that I May See”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDceaG7kFQA>

**“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 4:17-5:18**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A17-5%3A18&version=NIV>

**SERMON: “Christ Will Shine on You”** by *The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford*

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

As we know from sermons prior to week, Ephesians is about what it means to be in God’s family. Let’s review what we have heard thus far. The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> chapters of Ephesians revealed how the Father adopts us into his family thru Christ the Son. Next we’re exhorted to unity in the family of God. In the context of unity, Mike Bernstein, a Messianic Jewish believer who is a member of FPCP, preached about how Jewish and Gentile believers in Yeshua or Jesus are to be fully reconciled. Yesterday I received an email from Grant Barry, writer of Romans 911 from which Mike referred in his sermon. The email was an encouragement for believers to pray for Jewish persons to come to know Jesus as the Messiah too. For from midnight to noon time today, people are gathering in Israel in context with a Purim, after party in effect, to pray for

the Messiah to come. Purim is also a time to give to those in poverty. Similarly earlier this week I sent to the FPC mission committee an invitation that I received from Israel to help impoverished Jews there to have food for the upcoming Passover, which corresponds to holy week from Palm Sunday through Easter. Just a couple of weeks prior, I had a similar discussion with Mike Bernstein about providing food for Jewish feasts to Jews living in poverty. Ephesians exhorts us to unity with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Also in the context of unity, we heard instructions in Ephesians for members of Christian households: husbands & wives, servants, and children. At this point we learned how unity comes as we become adult children of God, maturing in the faith under the instruction of Christ's teaching through the Holy Spirit. The verses about maturity come immediately before today's passage. For the sake of understanding today's Scripture, listen again to Ephesians 4:14-16. Having been aimed in the right direction both toward unity and maturity, we can hear today's passage, aptly entitled "instructions for Christian living."

Let's begin by considering the passing of the days, through the sun, moon and stars, as the Creator God set in motion at the beginning of time.

On 11/1 we set our clocks to fall back, so darkness came earlier in the evening. The length of darkness increases till the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, when winter starts on 12/21. This is the date that we held our Blue Christmas service, where we enacted John 8:12 through candlelight. Beforehand, Advent was focused on John 1:15, where we lit Advent candles, which is part of our tradition. Another tradition is singing "Silent Night" by candlelight, which we did on Christmas Eve. This year we held up our candles in the dark at our windows or outside for neighbors to see.

On the liturgical calendar last week was the celebration of the anniversary of Jesus' Transfiguration. The Gospels reveal this as the time when Jesus was transfigured on the mountain showing forth the glory of the Father in his pre-resurrected body before the eyes of 3 of his disciples: Peter, James and John.

Now consider Ephesians 4:17-5:7 the start of today's passage in light of the transfiguration of Jesus Christ. Here Paul admonishes the Ephesians, who live in the pagan land of what is modern day Turkey, to no longer live as Gentiles. To not grieve the Holy Spirit by living in the darkness, but to put off old ways and to instead put on a new self. I remember getting a new outfit at important times of the year: Easter, first day of school, and Christmas, for example. Putting on and living into our faith in Christ is like changing into fresh new clothes. I wrote the sermon just after we set back our clocks with long nights approaching, so got a new shade to better see the light. The day I wrote this sermon I put a new lampshade onto the floor lamp in my living room. The old one was dark, dingy and old. I see more light with my new lamp shade. Next comes Ephesians 5:8-13. Here Paul explains that we do not simply put on light. We are light and should live as children of light. On transfiguration Jesus reflects the glorious light of the Father as his Son. Since then Jesus died, was buried, and rose, at which point Jesus' resurrection body is fully glorified, like the Father. No longer hidden in the darkness of the world, but, shining with light, Jesus is the light.

As his followers, we reflect the light of Jesus, before we obtain our resurrection bodies, just as Jesus reflected the glorious light of the Father.

So Jesus at the sermon of the mount from Matthew said that we are the light of the world. Paul alludes to Jesus' words from that parable.

As light then, Jesus makes visible and exposes that which is hidden in darkness. As his followers, we are called to do the same. We are not to keep shameful secrets hidden, but to bring them into the light. We just hear this teaching in joint officer training from the book "The Transforming Community."

Next Paul reminds readers of what is said in Ephesians 5:14: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." The bright light of morning streams through a window, when darkness is over. If the sun rises before the need to awake, it is difficult to stay asleep with bright sunlight streaming into the room, unless one applies room darkening curtains or a sleep mask!

Finally we read Ephesians 5:15-18. Paul summarizes the passage with: Be very careful, then, how you live.

Therefore, consider how Ephesians 4:17-5:18 reiterates a number of the 10 commandments that deal with how we are treat one another.

Commandment 6: Do not murder. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus explains that we should not speak angry words to a brother. Ephesians cautions us to not sin in anger, but to forgive thru Christ. And to stop unwholesome talk. What is our talk like? Is it unwholesome? Further, do we avoid listening to unwholesome talk?

Commandment 7: Do not commit adultery. The Greek word for adultery has a wider span that we may think. The word encompasses all sexual immorality. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus warns against lusting. The Greek word is porneo. The council of Jerusalem in Acts 15 did not reiterate all the commandments, but were summarized in two expectations, which went against common Gentile practices. First, Gentiles were no longer to participate in worship of idols, but to worship only the one true God. Second, Gentiles were not to participate in sexual immorality. Both Jesus and Paul expect the same. What about us? Do we practice sexual immorality and lusting? Further do we avoid temptations to sexual immorality?

Commandment 8: Do not steal. Ephesians says the same.

Commandment 10 is related: Do not covet. Paul in Ephesians expects believers to desist in greed. What about us? Do we yearn for what we do not have?

Commandment 9: Do not lie. Do not bear false witness. What about us? Do we lie to cover up our sins? Are little white lies considered harmless? Further, do we ever lie by omission?

To summarize, let us not live in darkness. Jesus is the light. Thru him, we are the light. Let us live as people of the light. Let us be light in this darkened world. Amen.

### **Hymn of Response: "Shine Jesus Shine"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70lwSQmyCq4>

**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: "Be Thou My Vision"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7IF16s>

**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.**