

## 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](mailto: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.** 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.

### WORSHIP for February 28, 2021

**Prelude** played by Brent Miller, **"Moonlight Sonata 1<sup>st</sup> Movement"**

*Streaming CCLI 20373701; Public Domain; Beethoven 1802*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFAQPVj8NqA&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8\\_1itXDbTRrCel331DmVVU&index=2&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFAQPVj8NqA&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCel331DmVVU&index=2&t=0s)

**Call to Worship:** Psalm 84:1-2, 4-5a *Responsively*

*How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, Almighty!*

***My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord;***

***my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.***

*Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.*

***Blessed are those whose strength is in you...***

Opening Hymn: **"God of Our Fathers"**

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

**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: “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeSoE1Kmmv0>

**“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 6:10-13**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+6%3A10-13&version=NIV>

#### **SERMON: “Armor of God” by The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford**

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

Here at the end of chapter 6 we come into the final movement of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. The passage starts in v. 10 with imperative commands: “be strong in the Lord” and “put on the full armor of God.” Putting on the full armor of God is the means by which God protects his family whom he loves. The home security system is fully armed and engaged through the Lord’s mighty power! No ground will be taken, when we stand firm.

When we think of armor, we may also think of the protective gear of athletes like football or hockey players or catchers in baseball. Or even more of the clunky, heavy apparel of medieval knights. While a suit of armor offers a measure of protection against the weapons of a foe, the suit limits vision and mobility, making the one who wears it clumsy and vulnerable in other ways. In addition, armor has chinks, which are vulnerable, weak or exposed gaps that can be penetrated. For example, Goliath the Philistine giant likely wore armor in his battles against the Israelites. However, while wearing no armor since King Saul’s armor did not fit properly, David was agile and able to sling rocks into the chink of Goliath’s armor to hit him between the eyes and kill him dead. So perhaps our supernatural armor of protection is different than the clunky, heavy suits of armor worn by medieval knights.

Since Scripture interprets Scripture, consider how previously in chapter 5 Paul spoke of our need to take off any covering of darkness and to instead don the light of Christ. We also heard how at his transfiguration, Jesus reflected the glory of the Father for his disciples to see on the mount. So it is with the armor of God. Our supernatural armor that protects us within God's family is composed of light. Armor of light is supported in other various biblical passages, when agents of God appear in bright arraignment, for example, Jesus, angels and even fellow humans.

Hear again of Jesus' appearance at his transfiguration in Mark 9:2-3: After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

God's revelation to John while exiled on Patmos also describes Jesus in heaven. Revelation 4:2-3: At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

Likewise consider Jesus' appearance from heaven to Paul on the road to Damascus. Act 9:3:4: As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

The apostle John begins his gospel in referring to Jesus as The Light. He writes of Jesus in: John 1:4-9: In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

John reiterates in 1John 1:5-7 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

And even those angels who worship God in shining glory on the throne in the highest heaven are sometimes described as reflecting his light in their appearances on earth.

At his birth: Luke 2:9. An angel of the Lord appeared to the, and the glory of the Lord shone around them...

At his resurrection: Matthew 28:2-3: There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

And even faithful human followers of God have been described similarly. There is Moses in Exodus 34:29: When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord.

The armor of God is not dull and tarnished, but shiny and bright to protect us against the forces of darkness. For light in penetrating darkness causes the darkness to retreat and fall back. Darkness cannot withstand light. Darkness cannot overcome light, but light overcomes darkness. Art display: study of darkness.

Donned with the armor of God we are able to stand against the power of this dark world.

Dressed in the armor of God, we are able to stand our ground. For we stand on the foundation of Christ Jesus himself.

Now we conclude where we began from...

**Affirmation of Faith:**

**Ephesians 6:14-17**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+6%3A14-17&version=NIV>

**Colossians 3:12-14**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A12-14&version=NIV>

**Hymn of Response: "Soldiers of Christ Arise"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zkFDS\\_bEeo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zkFDS_bEeo)

**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: "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r11Gmdq\\_-8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r11Gmdq_-8)

**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.**