

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Please **Give to FPCP Missions while shopping at Kroger**. To register go to this link: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>
- 2) Also **give to FPCP Missions while shopping at smile.amazon.com**. When you register for FPCP by going to this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1143651>. .5% of purchases work like Kroger points. But to get credit, you have to enter thru the link the first time before shopping. Link also found on FPC FaceBook & website!
- 3) **11am** is the new time of **worship in the sanctuary**. Enter thru the lower red doors in front of the elevator 10:45-11am, wearing a mask. Temperatures & attendance will be taken.
- 4) **1pm** is the new time of **Zoom worship**, until live streaming is available from the sanctuary. Please pray this is able to be installed soon!
- 5) **Adult Sunday school in upstairs hall from 9:30-10:45am**. Curriculum is on "The 13 Apostles." Worksheets available for children. Enter thru the lower red doors in front of the elevator 9:20-9:30am, wearing a mask. Temperatures & attendance will be taken.
- 6) **Zoom Adult Bible Study at 6pm on Sundays** is "God's Love for Women," a survey course of Genesis through Revelation, with examples of women throughout Scripture. To register please contact Pastor Janet.
- 7) To watch **sermons recorded** 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.

WORSHIP for April 11, 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Prelude played by Megan Ladd, "My Hope is Built"

Streaming CCLI 20373701; Music by Wm B Bradbury; Words by Edward Mote, 1863; Public Domain

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K67S1KtmscM&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCel331DmVVU&index=15&t=0s

Call to Worship: Psalm 52:8b-9 *Responsively*

I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.

For what you have done I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people.

And I will hope in your name,

For your name is good.

Opening Hymn: **"Amazing Grace"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di9HZMlcVCU>

Prayer of Confession: Colossians 3:5-10

(Responsively, pausing in silent reflection between each confession.)

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to [our] earthly nature:

sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. [We] used to walk in these ways, in the life [we] once lived . But now [we] must rid [our]selves of all such things, as these:

Anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from [our] lips.

Do not lie to each other, since [we] have taken off [our] old self with its practices and have put on the new self,

Which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe [our]selves with

Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of [us] has a grievance against someone.

Forgive as the Lord forgave [us].

And over all these virtues put on love

Which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Colossians 1:22-23 *Responsively*

Once [we] were alienated from God

and were enemies in [our] minds because of [our] evil behavior.

But now he has reconciled [us] by Christ's physical body through death to present [us] holy in

his sight, without blemish and free from accusation – if [we] continue in [our] faith established

and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that [we] heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven!

"The Gloria Patri"

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

Hymn of Preparation: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liQzzc41z5Q>

"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: Colossians 4:5-18 & 1:1-14

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+4%3A5-18&version=NIV>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+1%3A1-14&version=NIV>

SERMON: "Inheritance" by The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford

Watch sermon on:

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

Paul wrote 4 letters, while imprisoned in Rome. We've already heard from all of them: Philippians, Ephesians, Philemon, and parts of Colossians. Now unlike Philippi & Ephesus, Paul never went to Colossae. Today & through the spring season of Easter, we move through the remainder of the letter to Colossae with content that enhances but is different than that of the other prison letters. Over Advent Philippians spoke on the subjects of hope, peace, joy & love. Ephesians is about being in the family of God. Philemon was preached during Ephesians, since Philemon had in his household Onesimus, a slave, mentioned in Colossians, who ran away & was returning back to the city.

To begin... ever read the end of a book in order to know where it is heading? That is what we're going to do with Colossians. We start at the end of the letter to see how the church family has grown and how Paul expects continued growth for others to come into the family and for the family itself to grow and mature. Read **Colossians 4:5-18**.

These greetings at the end of Colossians are to many brothers & sisters in the family of faith, conveying that the family is to grow & mature both from the inside & out.

Having set the scene of the context of Colossians, now within the sermon we can read from the 1st chapter. But first here is the lay of the land. Colossae is in a Turkish tri-city near Ephesus. Cold springs bubble in Colossae, hot springs in Hierapolis (to whom no letter was written) & these 2 springs mix to form the lukewarm waters of Laodicea, the 7th church in the Book of Revelation. Thinking of the cold spring waters of Colossae consider regions in the colder northern half of the US, like Ohio or PA. With colder climates, the season to start seedlings is in the spring between March & May, in order to be able to plant following Memorial Day after the last frost. Due to adult allergies to outside pollens in spring & summer, I have never developed gardening skills, but I've mentioned before my grandfather planting a garden every year in his spacious backyard. Sometimes I accompanied him to "help" pick out seed packets. Probably like any kid, I was always attracted to the packet that promised the biggest produce, like the **giant tomato** in this picture. Colossal, in fact. Colossae pun intended. I also marveled in watching those tiny seeds spring up into bright green seedlings that grew in their egg carton pods while basking in the sun along window sills, before they were carefully transplanted outdoors growing taller and wider ahead of bursting forth into flower, which transforms into delicious fresh produce, like **colossal giant tomatoes!** You get the picture. Seen it many times in my PA homestead, which now I get to see in wonderful midwestern farmlands, right? For the biggest and best crops and those committed enough to try, there is also for a potential ribbon at the county or state fair. A bright reward for a job well done!

These garden scenes illustrate well the tone of Colossians, prompting us as members of God's family to maturity and fullness and to be ever thankful for blessings from above! With these pictures in mind, let us gratefully stroll through the 1st passage in Colossians, lingering among what springs up from amongst the garden of Scripture.

In **1:1-4** take in the fragrant aroma of Paul's thankfulness. In Scripture prayer is often lifted as a fragrant offering before the Lord. Paul is thankful because his eyes see what springs up from the Father through the Colossians.

In **v. 5**, now read, faith & love spring up from hope. The next letter from which sermons will come forth is Hebrews. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that faith is evidence of hope yet unseen. Hope however is partly seen already on earth, but the whole of hope is stored in heaven & is therefore not yet seen. Hope is a promise. A future, as spoken in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

But some of the hope is visible on earth as faith and love through the gospel. **V. 6**. Faith, hope and love is not just visible in Colossae, but the gospel bears fruit and is growing throughout the whole world. Through the Colossians, seed is spread and fruit grows worldwide.

V. 7-8. Though Paul never went to preach in Colossae, Epaphras did.

V. 9-11. The growing work began by Epaphras has continued and is to continue through all in the church of Colossae, as we also heard in chapter 4.

Within our garden metaphor, now think of an **heirloom tomato**, as we read **V. 12-14**. Paul again lifts thanks to the Father for qualifying the Colossians to share in the inheritance in the kingdom of light. This qualification comes through Jesus, the Son, who is The Light and over the Kingdom. Like the garden that cannot grow in darkness, neither can we. We need light to grow. That light comes through the one who is over the kingdom of light, Jesus who is The Light, as the apostle John writes in his Gospel and letter. Jesus is heir to the kingdom, who rescues us from sin, redeeming us to share equally in the glorious inheritance and hope that comes only through him. Further, stored up in heaven, the inheritance is secured. It cannot be taken away. It is not just insured, but assured. The pastor of the 1st Presbyterian church in which I 1st become a member was a 2nd career pastor like me. He sold insurance in his 1st career. I used to joke with him that he made the better choice in leaving the insurance business to go into the assurance business. The assurance of Christ is always a sure thing. Further, we don't wait to get the assurance & inheritance of Christ. We already have it. When asked if we are sure of our place in heaven, because our hope is Christ the answer is without a doubt, "Yes!" Not because of us, but because of him the inheritance is ours already. No wonder Paul is thankful. No wonder we are to be thankful for this abundant garden of grace!

Faith and love... spring from the hope of our inheritance stored up... in heaven and about which we have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come! Praise be to God for the assurance of faith, hope and love. Amen!

Hymn of Response: "Blessed Assurance"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDeiy9-t2GE>

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=wSshNluVPbA>

Closing Hymn: "O God Our Help in Ages Past"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKP_XxCBDZY

Benediction: Colossians 3:17 *Responsively*

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him,... in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**