

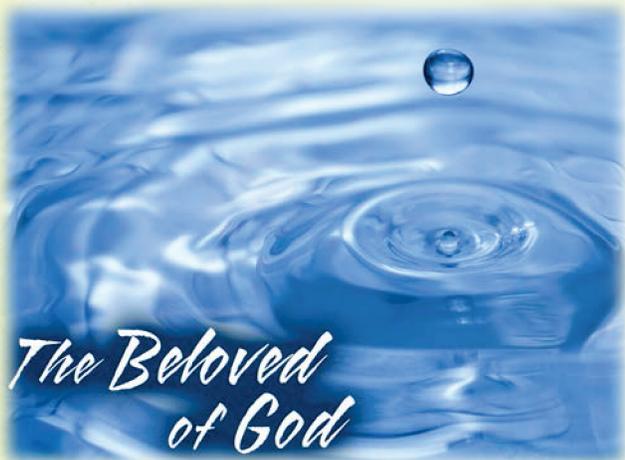


# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

*"Knowing the love of Christ together with all the saints." - Eph. 3:18-19*

**Week Ending, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015**



### **Upcoming Events- Lord willing!**

**Prepare for Worship!:** We encourage you to spend time in prayer each Saturday evening, preparing your hearts and praying for the worship of our God. Pray for the Minister of the Word: *"Pray him full, he will preach you full!"* Our KCPC weekly newsletter *The Shepherd's Voice* can be a helpful guide for your time of prayer. *Remember on Sunday mornings to seek to use prelude time before worship to enter God's presence with honor and respect and great awe!*

**Adult Sunday School:** Your pastor and elders will conclude the study on *'Ordinary'* by Michael Horton this week. Lord willing, we shall begin teaching a 12-15 week class on *The Triune God* soon.

**Women's Bible Study:** The study meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday nights at 7pm. All women are

welcome to attend.

### **Baptism of Genevieve Gerda Nastaran Greendyk:**

We will take part in the Sacrament of Baptism this **Lord's Day, Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>** during the morning worship service. Rejoice in God's goodness for our covenant children at KCPC!

**New Members!** We are thankful to receive **Dr. Mike and Mary Kucks** into membership at KCPC during the morning worship service on **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

**Men's and Boy's Breakfast this Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>:** Come and join us for our monthly breakfast, fellowship and prayer meeting from 8:30-10 am. **Topic: Watchfulness in the Christian Life.**

**Locust Street Film Night this Friday:** This Friday **April 17** at 7 pm. We will enjoy viewing and discussing the film noir classic *'Touch of Evil'* with Orson Welles and Charlton Heston. Thank you for all the young folks and others who are serving, and who desire to make this ~~successful~~ successful for the glory of God!

**Listen online to KCPC morning and/or evening sermons you missed and/or would like to hear again. Tune in for our upcoming Sunday school series on *The Triune God* as well at:**  
[www.sermonaudio.com/kepc](http://www.sermonaudio.com/kepc)

**Coming Soon- Preaching Sermon Series:** In morning services beginning Summer 2015: *'The Book of the Twelve'* (or the **Minor Prophets**); in the evening services beginning soon: *'The Pastoral Epistles'* (**2 Timothy**). Pray that God would prepare our hearts for these upcoming sermon series.

*What is a sacrament? A. A sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ in his church, to signify, seal, and exhibit unto those that are within the covenant of grace, the benefits of his mediation, to strengthen and increase their faith, and all other graces; to oblige them to obedience; to testify and cherish their love and communion one with another; and to distinguish them from those that are without."*

*- Larger Catechism, Q&A 165*

## *From Your Pastor*

### *Why We Baptize Our Children at KCPC*

God in His glorious grace condescends to give outward covenant signs to believers and to their children. In the Old Covenant, Abraham was promised that he would be the father of a multitude of nations (Gen. 12:1-3). God promises: “...*In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed*” (Gen. 12:3b). The blessings to Abraham and his own family would be a blessing to all families who believed like Father Abraham (Romans 4:11-12, 16). This wonderful Gospel promise from God came to Abraham within the context of the Covenant of Grace that was inaugurated with Adam and Eve in the Garden after their fall into sin when the Covenant of Works was broken (Genesis 3:15; Acts 3:25; Galatians 3:8).

The covenant sign for the Old Covenant administration of the Covenant of Grace was circumcision that symbolized a separation unto God from the world as His Beloved (Gen. 17:7-11). Because God is kind and merciful, He also includes the children of believers in the covenant (Gen. 17:10-11; cf. 1 Cor. 7:14). We are taught in Romans 4, that even before Abraham and his children were circumcised, the covenant promises were his to be received by faith alone (Romans 4:3-13). The Apostle Paul teaches us clearly that all are children of God in Christ Jesus, whether Jew or Gentile, male or female (Gal. 3:27-29). “... *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise*” (Gal. 3:28-29). All are one in Christ Jesus, and if you are a believer, you are a child of Abraham, and an heir of the promise of Genesis 17, which even includes your children! (Gen. 17:10-11; cf. Acts 16:31). **We should stress the wonderful covenant continuity from Genesis to Galatians (Gen. 17; Gal. 3), where we see that believers and their children are included in the covenant privileges. God covenantally condescends to bless families!** (see WCOF, chap. 7).

We baptize our children because in the time of the Old Covenant, the children were included in the covenant privileges and so this is also emphasized in the New Covenant. In fact, at Pentecost, Peter's sermon emphasizes the continuity between the promise that God made to Abraham and his children in Genesis 17, and the promises he still makes to us and to our children who live in the fullness of times, when Christ has come (Acts 2:38-39). If you are a Christian, you are a child of Abraham, united by faith because of God's grace to Christ, who is Abraham's seed (Gal. 3:16). Christ is the circumcised, baptized Israelite within whom all of the blessings of the covenant are found both for us and for our children (Acts 2:38-39). If you are a Christian, you were also in a sense baptized into Moses (1 Cor. 10:1-4, 6-13) and are a part of that larger Grand Narrative of which the Israelites were a part, and you are the True Israel of God (Gal. 6:16; Romans 2:28-29; 1 Pet. 2:9-11). The promise in the Old Covenant administration of the Covenant of Grace was to believers and their children, how much more in the New Covenant administration of the Covenant of Grace, revealed in all its fullness in Christ, should be to believers and their children as well!

Let us bow in obedience to our Sovereign God, and baptize our children (Gen. 17:3, 14). Let us be grateful for these covenant signs that are theirs because of God's mercies to believers *and their households!* Let us not neglect the means God has provided for our children to be nurtured and admonished in the faith as they are growing up in the covenant here at KCPC. As the Orthodox Presbyterian Church Book of Church Order admonishes us: “Although our young children do not yet understand these things, they are nevertheless to be baptized. For God commands that all who are under His covenant of grace be given the sign of the covenant.”

**Note: this is an edited version of a longer paper you may pick up this Lord's Day or read online at**

[www.ketocin.org](http://www.ketocin.org).

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Biggs

*What is Baptism? A. Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein Christ hath ordained the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, to be a sign and seal of ingrafting into himself, of remission of sins by his blood, and regeneration by his Spirit; of adoption, and resurrection unto everlasting life; and whereby the parties baptized are solemnly admitted into the visible church, and enter into an open and professed engagement to be wholly and only the Lord's. – Larger Catechism, Q&A 165*

# THIS LORD'S DAY

**Sermon Title:** *“Behold, I and the Children God has Given Me”*

– Pastor Charles R. Biggs

**Theme of Sermon:** The purpose of the Incarnation of the Son of God was to bring many sons (and daughters!) to glory!

**Scripture Lesson: Psalm 128**

**Scripture Text: Hebrews 2:10-18**

**Questions for Family Discussion/ Thoughtful Meditation:**

- \* **Read Hebrews 2.** What are at least four reasons why the Eternal Son took our flesh found in Hebrews 2?
- \* How does Hebrews 2 reveal the Triune God in our salvation? (Explicitly and implicitly).
- \* **Children:** How can Jesus help us in our temptations? Do you trust Him for that help (see 2:18, 4:15-16)?

## Hymns:

1. 441 Jesus Shall Reign
2. 717 Blest the Man That Fears Jehovah
3. 243 Praise the Savior Now and Ever

## *How is our baptism to be improved by us?*

A. The needful but much neglected duty of improving our baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others;(1) by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein;(2) by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements;(3) by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament;(4) by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace;(5) and by endeavouring to live by faith,(6) to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness,(7) as those that have therein given up their names to Christ;(8) and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body.(9) (1)Col. 2:11,12; Rom. 6:4,6,11 (2)Rom. 6:3-5 (3)1 Cor. 1:11-13; Rom. 6:2,3 (4)Rom. 4:11,12; 1 et. 3:21 (5)Rom. 6:3-5 (6)Gal. 3:26,27 (7)Rom. 6:22 (8)Acts 2:38 (9)1 Cor. 12:13,25,26,27

- *Westminster Larger Catechism Q&A 167*

*"In all your course, walk with God and follow Christ as a little, poor, helpless child, taking hold of Christ's hand, keeping your eye on the mark of the wounds on his hands and side, whence came the blood that cleanses you from sin and hiding your nakedness under the skirt of the white shining robe of his righteousness."*

- *Jonathan Edwards*