



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Special Edition 2016



*" Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!!"
- ESV 1 Chronicles 16:34*

Upcoming Events- Lord willing!

Prepare for Worship!: Your pastors and elders encourage you to spend time in prayer each Saturday evening, preparing your hearts and praying for the worship of our God. Please remember the importance of prayer for our worship services, and especially the need for the Spirit's work in preaching. Pray that we would come with expectant hearts to hear what the LORD would say to us! (Hab. 2:1-3).

Women's Bible Studies: Evening study meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights at 7pm, studying the Book of Daniel. For more information contact Margaret Biggs at missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net. Daytime study meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 1-3, studying *A Woman's Wisdom: How the Book of Proverbs Speaks to Everything*. Contact Joanie Leake for more information at J2Leake@gmail.com. All women are invited to attend either or both!

Thank Offering: Please be praying about how you would like to give to our Christian Education and missionaries in the OPC. Theme: *"Abounding in Hope"* (Rom. 15:13). For more info on video: <http://opc.org/feature.html>

Sunday School Classes—Autumn 2016: The adults are studying "Church History 101: Highlights from Twenty Centuries" taught by your elders. New Members' class also continues this Lord's Day.

Evening Worship: Gospel of John: Come close the Lord's Day together with worship, preaching and fellowship on Lord's Day evening, Nov. 27th at 6pm.

Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 10th in Purcellville: Come join us for the Purcellville Christmas Parade, inviting our neighbors to join us for worship! For more information, contact Elder Rick Weitz.

Christmas Fellowship and Caroling, Lord's Day evening, Dec. 18th: Our Christmas fellowship will be at 5:30 pm at the church building followed at 6:30 by caroling in our neighborhood! Come join us for the feasting and fun!

Christmas Eve with Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve: Join us Christmas Eve from 5-6:30 pm at Potomac Hills PCA in Leesburg for combined worship service.

Locust Street Film Night: Friday evening, December 16th, dinner at 6 pm, and film at 7 pm. We will be viewing and discussing the classic adaptation of Dickens' classic *'A Christmas Carol'*. Alistair Sim stars as "Scrooge" in this fantastic classic British film (1951).

*"... Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
ESV 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

From Your Pastor The Grace of Thanksgiving

We are called by our God to be thankful in Christ Jesus! (1 Thess. 5:18; Col. 3:16-17). Thankfulness for God's mercies runs as a glorious river of grace throughout redemptive history. But how are we to feed and fuel this thanksgiving? ***We are to remember.*** We are called as God's covenant people to always remember God and His undeserved, magnificent goodness to us in Jesus. The natural, unregenerate person is unable to give thanks. Thanksgiving is a gift of grace from the Holy Spirit, particularly manifest when we remember God and His graciousness toward sinners.

But we so easily forget, and thus are tempted to ingratitude! Church historian D. Clair Davis describes the Christian life as **"a combination of amnesia and déjà vu."** He says, **"I know I've forgotten this before."** Our thanksgiving to God should come from clear and biblically informed memories that remember the love and grace of God. What does Scripture teach concerning this?

We are to remember God (Exodus 3:14-15). God reveals Himself to His people so that we will remember Him throughout generations. These memories of God's Person and loving and good character leads to service and faith that desire to focus our faith on God. God reveals Himself not because He needed anything, but that He might bless us, and allow us to enjoy Him and glorify Him in our lives of service for Him.

God remembers His covenant mercies to His people, therefore we are called to remember that He always remembers us! *"Give thanks to the LORD for He is good; for His steadfast (covenantal) love endures forever"* (Psalm 118). God instituted feasts in the Old and New Covenants so that we might formally remember His grace and goodness to us Jesus Christ. God said of Passover in the Old Covenant: *"This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations..."* (Exo. 12:12-14). God knew our tendency to forget, and He graciously desired to capture the memories of His people as they told the story of His faithfulness in redemption. This remembering would lead to great thanksgiving from the heart, manifesting itself in covenantal obedience to God in response to His love: *"...Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that he has done..."* (1 Chron. 16:9-12).

In the New Covenant, the Lord Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to *"Do this in remembrance of me"* (1 Cor. 11:23ff). This remembrance that we are to have is God's ultimate saving work in Christ for sinners, how He laid down His own life for us! Through this New Covenant feast (1 Cor. 5:8), we remember the past acts of God in Christ for us, and anticipate His glorious return, and the consummate feast we will eat with the Lord in the New Creation! At the Lord's Table, we thank God for His indescribable gift to sinners in Christ! (2 Cor. 9:11ff).

Our Puritan forefathers spoke of having holy conversations, something that we don't diligently seek to practice today as we should. These holy conversations are simply seeking to edify other brethren by reminding them of the great things God has done, and is doing in our lives; this is another aspect of watching what we say, and seeking to edify those like us who are often tempted to ingratitude. This is another way of stirring up other to love and good works--to thanksgiving! (Heb. 10:24-25). We see this telling of God's goodness in Exodus 18 when Moses tells Jethro, his father in law, of God's salvation faithfulness. And Jethro rejoices! Let us rejoice together in this way! (1 Thess. 3:9).

Ingratitude is a great sin (Rom. 1:21: *"They did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him..."*; cf. 1 Tim. 3:2; even secular psychologists today understand that ingratitude and complaining are because of narcissistic self-love). Thanksgiving is another gift of grace from God to His people. Thanksgiving is an act of faith that pleases God. We can be thankful because we have the Spirit of Joy and Rejoicing within us. This glorious Spirit has been secured for us because the Father set His affection and love upon us from eternity past, and in time the Eternal Son became man to redeem us by His precious blood. Let us give Him thanks! Glory to God! To the praise of His glorious grace! (Eph. 1)!

Let us behold the Lord Jesus giving thanks to the Father for His wisdom in salvation, and His thanks for us as His own beloved, and let us imitate His holy attitude by His powerful Spirit (Luke 10:21; Heb. 2:13).

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Biggs

*"In that same hour [Jesus] rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, **"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have...revealed [your grace] to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."** - ^{ESV} Luke 10:21*

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Title: “*The God of Hope*”

– Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-11; Romans 5:1-2, 14:17

Scripture Text: Romans 15:13

Theme of Worship Service: The saints’ hope in the Gospel of God brings rejoicing in Christ to the glory of God!

Thoughts to prepare for sermon/Thanksgiving meditation/family worship:

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope!”

- * Read Romans 15. Note the various ways God is described as in “the God of hope” (Rom. 15:13). Take the different ways God is described, and think about how He has particularly revealed Himself to you and your family in this way. Pray and rejoice in Christ over this!
- * It has been said that “hope is faith lengthened, and faith is hope strengthened? What do you think this means?”
- * How can we better with one voice glorify God in Christ together as a congregation (see Romans 15:5-7).
- * What is an important reason the Scriptures are written to us? (Hint: Rom. 15:3-4).

“I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.”

- Psalm 9:1