



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending December 2nd, 2017



Prepare for Worship: Your pastor and elders encourage you to spend time in prayer each Saturday evening, preparing your hearts for the Lord's Day and praying for the worship of our God. Pray for the Holy Spirit's blessing on the preaching of the Word and our fellowship!

Women's Bible Studies: The daytime study meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm, studying the book of Ruth with Paul Miller's interactive study *A Loving Life*. Contact Joanie Leake at j2leake@gmail.com for details. The evening study meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7-9pm, enjoying a study of biblical friendship with Ed Welch's *Side by Side*. For more information, contact Margaret Biggs at missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net.

Deacon's Offering: During morning worship this Lord's Day we will take up an offering for the needs of our community. Remember that God's commands to "do good" in Scripture often imply doing justice, working mercy, or caring for others' physical needs.

Prayer Meeting: This Lord's Day, Dec. 3rd at 6pm, come and pray with us for the blessing of God by His Spirit, particularly as we remember our Savior's incarnation this season. Followed by a fellowship meal; question and answer with Pastor Biggs at 5pm.

New Members: We will receive the Dwight George family as members by transfer this Sunday, Dec. 3rd.

Young Adult Fellowship: Enjoy lunch at the Weitzes' home in Round Hill this Sunday after morning worship.

KCPC Family Meeting: We will gather as a congregation for an informal family meeting on Lord's Day, Dec. 17th during our regular Sunday school hour.

Christmas Caroling in Purcellville: We will gather to sing carols around town on Lord's Day, Dec. 17th at 5pm, followed by our annual Christmas supper at 6pm.

Pastor/Elder Family Visitation: Your pastor and elders will be seeking to schedule in-home family visits for pastoral care and prayer over the next several months. Let us know at any time how we can best serve you as your shepherd-elders.

New Members Class: Your pastor and elders will be offering 5-6 classes during the Sunday School hour for those interested in joining KCPC, beginning Sunday, Jan. 14th, covering the five membership vows and the helpful book *Presbytopia: What It Means to be Presbyterian*. If you are interested, please email Pastor Biggs at crbiggs@comcast.net by Dec. 15th.

Winter/Spring 2018 Sunday School: Our deacons will teach on the Diaconate and how we can show Christ's compassion through service and stewardship of God's gifts in our congregation and community. Pastor Biggs will teach a class on the Holy Spirit.

Congregational Memory Verses 2017:

"God is not man, that He should lie, or a son of man, that He should change his mind. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not fulfill it?" -Numbers 23:19

"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." -John 14:13-14.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

-John 1:14

From Your Pastor
“Pursuing Holiness in 2018”
Charles R. Biggs

Dear beloved, loved by God, at KCPC, as you plan your calendars for the new year of 2018, may you also have a plan for holiness. The Apostle Paul both encourages and commends the Christians at Thessalonica because their election by God was demonstrated very specifically in that the gospel came to them not only in word, but “also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction” (1 Thess. 1:3-5). As a congregation, they had learned of God’s love for them in Christ, and they had become imitators of the Lord Jesus and other godly Christians. Even through great affliction, their faith and joy in Jesus shone through to all (1 Thess. 1:6-8). This was a sanctified congregation that possessed a measure of holiness by God’s grace. Yet the Apostle Paul encouraged them to “do so more and more”, and reminded them that the will and purpose of God was for them to be sanctified/holy (1 Thess. 4:1, 3, 8). They were to pursue holiness and grow in Christ.

How might we grow more and more in holiness in Christ in this coming year? As the Christians did at Thessalonica, it was primarily through a deeper knowledge of God’s Word by the power of the Holy Spirit. Here are some ways that other Christians before us have sought to grow in holiness. Let me encourage us to do the same in this new year, praying for the blessing of God’s Spirit in our flourishing and maturity as a congregation in Christ. Let us “more and more” pursue holiness (some of the below we have included in our worship services, so that you will do this at least once a week).

Law of God/10 Commandments: Memorize the Law of God and go over it regularly on 2 hands and 10 fingers, remembering the 2 tables to love God and neighbor as self (Matt. 22:37-39), and 10 commandments that summarize our privilege and duty in Christ before God. See how gracious God is in His condescension to sinners that He would make the summary of how to love Him and neighbor as ourselves so easy to memorize and meditate upon each day (Psa. 1)!

Lord’s Prayer: Memorize and seek to regularly pray the Lord’s Prayer from the heart, meditating upon each petition regularly. Praying “Thy will be done” reminds us to be selfless and dependent upon God’s Word alone, and praying “Forgive us our debts as we forgive...” reminds us to be merciful.

Apostle’s Creed: Memorize and seek to think regularly of this summary of God’s salvation in Christ. Let your subjective faith given by God’s Spirit be built up in this objective summary of your most holy faith.

Bible Reading/Meditation: Seek to regularly (perhaps annually) read through the Bible, and meditate upon truths that are highlighted by God’s Spirit to teach and guide you. (I write them out on index cards for memorization, prayer, meditation, and further Bible study; I invite you to do the same if helpful.) There are so many good apps for accomplishing this regular reading of Scripture; particularly helpful are the ESV Bible app (with many Bible reading plans) and the Reading Scripture app that helps you to get an overview of redemptive-history and a helpful, Christ-centered introduction to each Bible book.

Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms: Memorize these excellent catechisms with your family, starting with the Shorter Catechism, and then seeking to feed on and digest more fully the Larger Catechism. There is much wisdom in these!

I pray that this will be useful for us to grow in holiness “more and more” in 2018! All of this must be undergirded by unceasing prayer for illumination and power from Christ’s Holy Spirit. Remember, beloved of Jesus, holiness means greater glory to our Covenant LORD and Triune God, and more happiness for us, His people, for true holiness is nothing more than true happiness!

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.” -1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

*“Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”
-Hebrews 2:17*

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon

“Spirit of Christmas Prophecy”

-Rev. Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; 11:1-5; 40:1-5; 52:7-9; 53:3-6

Scripture Text: Matthew 1:18-25; 2 Peter 1:16-21

Theme of Sermon:

Christmas sermon series on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit and how He glorified the Father and the Son in the Incarnation, part 1: How the Holy Spirit prepared the church and the world for the Incarnation of the Son of God.

Hymns

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, 196

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, 221

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, 194

Questions for Meditation/Reflection

- *Children: Read 1 Peter 1:10-11, 2 Peter 1:19-21. What do these two passages teach about the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit? What means does the Spirit use primarily to reveal truth to God's people? What practical applications might you take from this?*
- *Read and reflect upon Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; 11:1-5; 40:1-5; 52:7-9; 53:3-6. Draw a mental picture in your imagination of the truths of these passages from Isaiah's prophecy. Who do you see? Behold the glory of the LORD in the face of Jesus—worship and adore Him!*
- *From your own knowledge, how was the Holy Spirit specifically and uniquely involved in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ?*

*“Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning;
O shepherds, shudder not with fright, but hear the angel's warning.
This Child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be;
the pow'r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.”*

-Johann Rist