



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

*Week Ending November 11<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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](mailto:missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net).

**Thank Offering 2017:** This month, be prayerfully considering how you would like to generously offer above and beyond your tithes and regular offerings to bless the larger Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

**Evening Worship:** Join us this Lord's Day at 6pm as we continue our sermon series on the Gospel of John; all are welcome to a fellowship meal afterward.

**Locust Street Film Night:** This month's feature is the great Italian Neo-Realist Classic by Vittorio de Sica, "Umberto D" (1952). Join us Friday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for dinner and 7pm for the film and discussion.

**Men's and Boy's Breakfast:** On Saturday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am, we will continue studying Christian life in cultural context, discussing "The Benedict Principle."

**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. 14<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:crbiggs@comcast.net) by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Winter/Spring 2018 Sunday School:** Our beloved deacons will teach on the nature of the Diaconate and how we can show Christ-like compassion through our service and stewardship of God's good gifts in our congregation and community. Pastor Biggs will teach a class on the Person and Work of 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.

*"Now although we owe innumerable things to God, they can all be summarized in four points: worship, trust, invocation and thanksgiving. I call 'worship' the reverence shown to Him by every creature which submits to His greatness..."*

**-John Calvin**

*From Your Pastor*  
**“500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation:  
We Confess One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church”**  
*Charles R. Biggs*

Regularly during our public worship services at KCPC, we confess together as a congregation the Nicene Creed, the corporate confession of the church formulated from the Councils of Nicea and Constantinople. The third part of the Nicene Creed focuses primarily on the work of the Holy Spirit, the “Lord and Giver of Life.” In it, we confess that we believe in “one holy catholic and apostolic church;” we confess that we are the recipients of the life-giving and powerful work of the Holy Spirit as He has established, is building, and is filling Christ’s Church to the glory of the Father.

**Catholic:** When we confess that the church is catholic, we confess that we are part of one body, one bride, one family that has been called out of darkness and the corruption of sin to be God’s True Israel made up of Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female—everyone the Lord calls by His Spirit, from Adam to the second coming of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8; Gal. 3:26-29; Eph. 1:3-6, 13-23; Rom. 5:12, 15, 17; 12:5; 16:25-27; Col. 1:11-12; 3:9-11; 1 Pet. 2:9). The term “catholic” refers to the universality of the church, consisting of all people in all places and times who have called upon the name of Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him as Lord. As our early church father Ignatius of Antioch confessed, “Where Jesus Christ is, there is the catholic church.” This means that wherever Jesus as Head of His Church is present by His Spirit and Word, the universal church is present. We are neither Roman Catholic nor sectarians; we are reformed and reforming catholics, local, faithful congregations that are part of the larger whole in Christ Jesus.

**Apostolic:** When we confess that the church is apostolic, we confess that we are part of Christ’s temple-building project, founded on the apostolic and prophetic word, with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone (Acts 2:1-5; Eph. 2:19-22). Christ builds His holy temple through the authoritative work of His Vicar on earth, His powerful Spirit, who leads His people in all truth through the inspired, infallible, final, and completed Word of God (John 7:38-39; 14:17; 15:26; 16:12-15; 20:21-22; Acts 1:8; 2:38; Gal. 3:14; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Heb. 1:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 John 4:1-5). To be apostolic means to confess that Scripture alone is God’s final authority for our doctrine and life. Tradition is good when it is scriptural (Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Th. 2:15; 3:6; but cf. Mark 7:4-8), but “To the teaching and to the testimony!” (Isa. 8:20), “Thus says the LORD”, and “It is written...” should be the ultimate, final guide to our doctrine, life and godliness! A true apostolic church is not found through apostolic succession of fallible men, but through faithfulness to apostolic truth. Faithful preaching of the Word of God marks the apostolic church of Jesus Christ.

How can we practically live out this confession? We can seek to realize our union and communion with Jesus and other Christians by pursuing peace and being merciful, patient, and compassionate with other confessing Christians as Christ has been to us (Col. 3:12-16). Knowing that we have been set apart and justified through faith by His grace, we can seek to glorify Christ by growing in holiness. We can recognize the privilege we have to be part of the one true Israel and family of God, made up of all kinds of people at all times and in all places. We can know more fully that we are the temple that Christ is building by His Spirit, and that King Jesus is ruling, subduing, and defending us by the authority of the apostolic word, the very Sword of the Spirit.

Our Lord Jesus promised that He would build His church and the gates of hell would never prevail against her! Because of His good providence we have observed this throughout history and experienced this power and grace by His Spirit in our congregation and denomination to this day! What a privilege at the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation to confess our union with Christ and His Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father as “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church,” called to be the children of God, and to shine like the firmament as God’s holy ones in this present age (Dan. 12:3; Phil. 2:14-16). Here we still stand. May the LORD direct our hearts to rejoice and delight in His love and the steadfastness of Christ! (2 Thess. 3:5).

*“‘Invocation’ is when our soul, beset by some necessity,  
turns for help to Him as to its only hope...”*

-John Calvin

# THIS LORD'S DAY

## Sermon

### *“King”*

-Rev. Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Deuteronomy 17:14-20; John 18:33-38

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 8

#### Theme of Sermon:

*Israel refuses to listen to the prophet Samuel and wants a king after their own hearts. Be careful what you pray for; God may just give it to you.*

## Hymns

Rejoice, the Lord is King, 310

Unto My Lord Jehovah Said, 313

Almighty God, Your Word is Cast, 383

## Questions for Meditation/Reflection

- *Read 1 Samuel 8, Deuteronomy 17:14-20, Judges 8-9: Was a king a right expectation for Israel to have? Why, or why not?*
- *Why is Samuel displeased? What does he do? What does that teach you as a servant of the Lord no matter what “everyone else” wants?*
- *Why does God grant Israel a king? Support from Scripture. How does this teach you about God’s character?*

*“Thanksgiving’ is the gratitude which allows us to give praise for every blessing; since God will not suffer it to be directed elsewhere, He desires that it be wholly rendered to Him.”*

-John Calvin