



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

*Week Ending November 25<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 tithe and regular offerings to bless the larger Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

**Evening Worship:** Join us this Lord's Day, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> for worship at 6pm, followed by a fellowship meal, as we continue to study the Gospel of John.

**New Members:** We will receive the Dwight George family as members by transfer on Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

**Advent/Christmas Season at KCPC:** We will focus on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit in the birth of Jesus Christ through a sermon series on "The Spirit of Christmas." **Caroling in Purcellville** will be on Lord's Day, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm, 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. 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.

*"Only fear the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart.  
For consider what great things He has done for you."*

*-1 Sam. 12:24*

*From Your Pastor*  
**“The Grace of Giving and Generosity, Part 1”**  
*Charles R. Biggs*

Dear family in Jesus, let us seek to flourish in the grace of magnanimously generous giving. Because of God’s grace to us, let us eagerly desire to honor and glorify God in Christ by “crowning” our King in the extension and advancement of His Kingdom to the ends of the earth!

**Christ has made us rich!** We were impoverished, poor and naked before God (Rev. 3:17), without any righteousness to offer Him, and nothing but a weight of guilt, sin and debt to God. Christ put aside all of His glorious riches to make us abundantly rich and gloriously clothed in Him (2 Cor. 8:9).

**Christ has given us His mind!** Remember our one-ness in the Gospel—others’ interests should be more important than our own (Phil. 2:2-4)! Let us give to each other because we are united to one another as one body in Jesus by His Spirit at KCPC. May there never be needs in our congregation that we are aware of but do not seek to meet as a congregation. If we cannot be generous to our brothers, how can we ever serve our enemies and the world as we are called to do?

**Christ has given us faith and works in our union with Him!** Remember your faith and your love being demonstrated in your works (Jas. 2:14-18). Remember to prove your love to Christ and one another (2 Cor. 8:8, 24). You say you love God; show it! Jesus said: “If you love me, keep my commandments.”

Excel in the grace of giving generously (2 Cor. 8:7)! Let us show our love for God and one another and our abundant joy and thanksgiving by giving toward tangible needs. Be faithful to tithing, giving, and generosity in general. Do you believe that you can be magnanimously generous, that Jesus can be your ultimate portion and possession and treasure, and that you can be a greater giver (2 Cor. 9:6-8)? In Christ, we have all we need. He is full of the grace of generosity and giving—this, too, is our inheritance in union with Him!

Here are some “objections” we may raise as to why we cannot, do not, or will not give generously:

**“But I’m really already stretched financially!”** If you’re “stretched”, God knows it and will provide for you (Psalm 37:23-26); He is Jehovah Jireh! Your giving is an act of faith, and this grace will be returned to you. Through sacrificial giving you learn to be content in any situation (Phil. 4:10-23). The Apostle Paul teaches that we can do “all things” through Christ who strengthens us, whether we living in abundance or need. God promises to meet our needs and use us to meet the needs of others (Phil. 4:19; 2 Cor. 8:14-15).

**“But I tithe, isn’t that enough?”** Thanks be to God for your tithing; that is a great start! The tithe is to show our utter dependence upon God; all that we have or will ever possess comes from God (1 Cor. 4:7). We are to be willing not merely to give a tithe (10%), but to give all of ourselves and our possessions (Luke 14:26ff). Giving helps us to avoid idolatry and weighing ourselves down on our pilgrimage with too much prosperity. We give back to God as His steward-managers, recognizing the danger of relying on our savings plan rather on the God who has saved us!

**“But, I am in so much debt.”** God knows that we will have some form of debt at many times in life, and while we can prayerfully and wisely seek to be debt-free, the cause of our debt is often that we are consumers by nature rather than producers (Prov. 11:24-25). Let us pay our debts faithfully to the glory of God while putting God first in our priorities and seeking to produce more for His kingdom. Ask God to search your heart (Psa. 139:23-24), repent of greed and selfishness, and find mercy and grace in Christ (Heb. 4:16).

**“But I can give so little.”** Give your widow’s mite; give your few fish and loaf of bread; give what you can and watch and pray that Jesus in His grace might multiply it. Perhaps your small gift will inspire others to give out of their abundance! If there is readiness to give, it is from God and acceptable (2 Cor. 8:12).

Let us show our love for God in our giving and generosity, knowing He will do above and beyond what we can ever ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20-21). Let us excel in the grace of giving today, especially as we receive the OPC Thank Offering this week and as we seek to increase our generosity in the coming year!

***“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth!  
My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.”***

**-Psalm 34:1-2**

# THIS LORD'S DAY

## Sermon

### *“Delight Yourself in the LORD!”*

-Rev. Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 73:23-28; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

Scripture Text: Psalm 37

### Theme of Sermon:

*What do you most desire in your life? If God is chief of those desires by His good and powerful grace, you will enjoy all of His blessings and benefits He is pleased to give to you in Christ Jesus.*

## Hymns

How Good It Is to Thank the Lord, 635

O Lord Most High, With All My Heart, 48

Be Thou My Vision, 642

## Questions for Meditation/Reflection

- *Children: Read Psalm 37:4: The Bible teaches us to “delight” ourselves in the LORD. What does this mean? What does it mean to “fret”? Write this out in your own personal journal, and share it with others in your family. Do you delight daily? In what specific way(s)? Do you fret? In what specific way(s)?*
- *Review of last Lord's Day sermon (1 Sam. 9): Read 1 Chronicles 10:13-14. In what two specific ways did Saul fail in his service to God? What does this teach you?*
- *Read Psalm 37. There is an important contrast between the wicked/godless and the righteous/godly in Psalm 37. List all of the truths about the wicked and all the truths about the righteous, and make this a list for thanksgiving to God and prayer.*
- *What is the believer's ultimate hope according to Psalm 37? What is the believer's ultimate destination?*
- *What does it mean that God will “give you the desires of your heart” (Psa. 37:4)?*

*“Let me hear in the morning of Your steadfast love, for in You I trust.  
Make me know the way that I should go, for to You I lift up my soul.”*

-Psalm 143:8