



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending November 4th, 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.

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.

Prayer Meeting and Fellowship: This Sunday evening at 6pm, join us for a prayer meeting and fellowship dinner. We will give thanks for all God has generously given to us and ask Him to make us generous and gracious in our giving to others. Come early at 5pm for a Q&A time with Pastor Biggs.

Deacon's Offering: This great privilege of monthly offering to help those in need will be taken up during worship this Lord's Day, Nov. 5th.

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. 17th at 6pm for dinner and 7pm for the film and discussion.

Men's and Boy's Breakfast: On Saturday, Nov. 18th 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. 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 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.

“And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

-1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

From Your Pastor
“500th 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 that was formulated from the Councils of Nicea and Constantinople in 325 and 381 A.D. respectively. The Nicene Creed is a trinitarian creed that confesses the one Christian faith revealed from the Father, through the work of the Son, by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:11-22, esp. v. 18). Our response to the question “Church, what do you believe?” is:

“We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

“And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

“And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.”

The third part of the Nicene Creed focuses primarily on the work of the Holy Spirit, the “Lord and Giver of Life.” When 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.

One: When we confess that the church is one, we confess that we are part of one church, the body of Christ (Eph. 4:4, 12, 16), the beloved bride of Christ (Eph. 5:23, 29-32), purchased and redeemed by His precious blood to be children of the living God (Eph. 1:7; Rev. 1:5), one family in Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 2:11-18; 4:4-6; 5:8). We ought to seek to realize the union and communion we already possess in Jesus Christ by the Spirit more fully in our day-to-day Christian lives. At Christ’s return this unity will be fully realized and manifested before the world to the glory of the Triune God (Eph. 5:27; Col. 3:4; 2 Pet. 1:11; 2 Pet. 3:14; Rev. 14:12-13). As the Apostle Paul wrote: “Be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3). We should consider everyone who professes the name of Jesus Christ and loves Him in sincerity with a faith incorruptible part of the body of Christ and family of God, and pursue and maintain unity with them through loving service, fellowship, and mercy (Rom. 12:11-18; Col. 3:11-15; 5:12-18; 2 Thess. 1:3).

Holy: When we confess that the church is holy, we confess that we are set apart to be the purchased possession and delight of God our Father (Gen. 17:8; Exodus 19:5; Deut. 14:2; 30:9; Psa. 74:2; Zeph. 1:17; Mal. 3:17; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:13-18; 2:9-11). We are called by our God and Father to “be holy as He is holy” (Lev. 11:44; Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:15-16). In union with Christ by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:1-6; Phil. 2:1-5), we have the perfect righteousness that all sinners need to stand in the holy presence of God, received by faith and imputed as a gift from Christ alone (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 3:21-26; 4:1-11; 5:18; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9-11). We also grow up and mature in real righteousness as we walk in the light of His Holy Word and in His unfathomable love (Eph. 3:17-19; 4:13-16). Christ, by His Spirit, gives us imputed righteousness in our justification and imparted, or real, righteousness progressively in our sanctification (1 Thess. 4:1-8; 2 Pet. 1:3-11)...

“For I believe I have so embraced the sum of religion in all its parts, and have arranged it in such an order, that if anyone rightly grasps it, it will not be difficult for him to determine what he ought especially to seek in Scripture, and to that end he ought to relate its contents.”

-John Calvin

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon
“Ebenezer”
-Rev. Charles R. Biggs



Scripture Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:1-12; Nehemiah 9:23-31

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 7

Theme of Sermon:

Though God's people are faithless, submerging themselves in idolatry and superstition, God faithfully provides a Mediator to stand ready to receive repentant sinners and minister God's reconciling grace and forgiving mercies to them. Let us rejoice in our “Stone of Help”!

Hymns

Great is Thy Faithfulness, 32

O Thou That Hear'st When Sinners Cry, 485

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, 457

Questions for Meditation/Reflection

- *Children: Read 1 Samuel 7. What does “Ebenezer” mean? How does this point you to God’s faithfulness? What hymn has “Ebenezer” in the lyrics? How might this hymn help you to better understand 1 Samuel 7? Let’s sing this hymn with great joy this week!*
- *From last week’s sermon, how did the Philistines experience the “heaviness” of God? Meditate specifically on how this showed that many folks desire relief (from guilt), but without belief (in God’s promises).*
- *Is God’s “heaviness” removed from Israel in 1 Samuel 7? Why, or why not?*
- *When God speaks again to Israel through Samuel the Prophet, what does He say to the people? What does this teach you about God?*
- *How is Christ revealed in 1 Samuel 7?*

“What are God’s works of providence? God’s works of providence are His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures and all their actions.”

-Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 11