

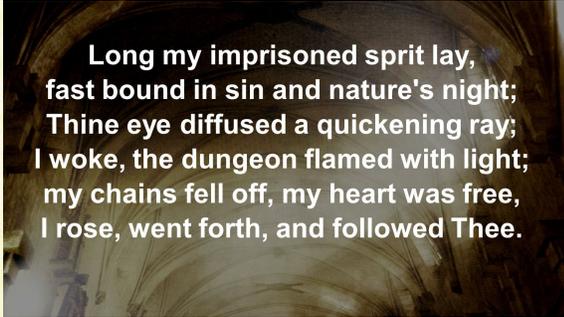


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC's 15th Anniversary Celebration

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

Week Ending February 17th, 2018



Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

Congregational Memory Verse for 2018—KCPC's 15th anniversary! "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." -2 Peter 1:5-8

Prepare for worship by spending 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!

Evening worship this Lord's Day at 6pm; we will continue our series through John and enjoy a fellowship meal together. This month, evening worship will be held on the 3rd Sunday, with our monthly fellowship lunch on the 4th Sunday.

Annual congregational meeting this Lord's Day at 9:15am; the budget for 2018 will be presented. All members are encouraged to make the effort to attend!

Locust Street Film Night on Feb. 16th will be a special Valentine's Day-themed dinner, featuring F. W. Murnau's "Sunrise" (1927). RSVP for dinner at 6pm on geweitz@gmail.com; otherwise, enjoy the film at 7pm!

Men's and boy's breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 24th from 8:30-10am. We will continue to discuss Rod Dreher's *The Benedict Option*; this month we will focus on living a counter-cultural-kingdom Christian life in our sexuality, drawing from ch. 9: "Eros and the New Christian Counterculture."

Missions March will begin Sunday, Mar. 4th at 6pm with a time of prayer together for our missionaries. We are pleased to have our OPC Missions Ambassador, Pastor Steve Doe, give KCPC an update on worldwide missions on the 11th; on the 18th we will welcome Rev. Josiah Walters, missionary to Chad, to give a presentation on his translation work.

A Good Friday service will be held at KCPC on Friday, Mar. 30th together with our sister congregation, Potomac Hills PCA.

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.

Women's Bible studies meet in the daytime on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm, beginning a new study on Feb. 27th using William W. Harrell's *Let's Study 1st Peter* (contact Joanie Leake at j2leake@gmail.com for details), and in the evening on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm, studying Ecclesiastes using Zack Eswine's book *Recovering Eden* (for more information, contact Margaret Biggs at missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net).

"Our heart is resolved on this: nothing will happen that God has not ordained... Convinced that nothing happens by chance but that all things are determined by God's providence, the Christian will in his thinking always regard God as the principal cause of every event."

-John Calvin

Prayers

Ephesians 6:18- *“Praying Always...”*

Remember that you may email your prayer requests to kcpdeacons@gmail.com (and copy Pastor Biggs and elders) to invite others to pray with you during the week. The elders also invite you to call us to anoint you with oil and pray for you if you're sick, according to James 5:13-15. Please let us know how to serve you. **Recently Updated Prayers**

Please pray for your pastor, elders, and deacons to be watchful and prayerful (Matt. 26:41), to not grow weary in doing good (Gal. 6:9-10), and to be zealous servants, committed to prayerful living with rejoicing (Rom. 12:11-12).

Pray that we would better prepare for worship as a congregation, be attentive during preaching and teaching, give generously as the Lord provides, and be further freed from sinful distractions and spiritual apathy as a congregation!

Pray for revival of our souls individually and as a congregation, that we will be awakened from apathetic slumbers and enjoy deeper wisdom and knowledge found in Christ. Let us be reminded that true, genuine revivals are prayed down, graciously given when our sovereign God desires to grant them. Pray for awakening, renewal, and growth in Christ (Num. 23:19; John 14:13-14).

Pray for the upcoming Boardwalk Chapel mission trip in July; pray that volunteers would receive the funds they need and that their hearts would be prepared even now. Praise God for Mark and Sarah Turner who will be serving on staff at Boardwalk this summer!

Pray that God's perfect will would be done in our finding just the right summer intern to have at KCPC.

Pray for Christopher George as he begins his long recovery from ankle surgery.

Pray for Keith George who is in great back pain. Pray for God to encourage, sustain and heal our brother.

Pray for Margie Lung as she recovers from a broken wrist; pray that the pain will be manageable and that she will recover fully.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Tim Flora, his wife Dana, and their family as Tim recovers from surgery and takes medication for renal cancer. Pray for no side effects from the medication, for strong faith, endurance, and healing from our kind king!

Pray that Jik Yousefi, Asriel Greendyk's father, would continue in remission and praise the Lord that he is resting in his Savior.

Pray for healing from Lyme disease for Lydia Keller and Kathy and Grace Weitz; pray for grace and patience during this time.

Pray for health and strength for Heather Gray, Stacey Halley, and Jennifer Weitz as they await new covenant children. Praise God for the safe arrival of Edmund Walter Chamberlain!

Pray that God would comfort Kathleen George and her family in the loss of her father; pray also that God provide her with a job.

Pray for Phil Proctor and his family to remain steadfast and trust the Lord through a difficult trial.

Praise God and pray for Bob Trombadore as he studies and prepares to serve as an elder, for Thomas Rolf as he has been taken under care of presbytery, and for Marius du Plessis as he has been selected to attend the OPC Timothy Conference for young men considering a pastoral call. Praise God for His faithfulness in raising up godly men to serve His church!

Pray for Zachary, Annie, Margaret, Rebecca, and Alice Simmons as they prepare for Zachary's ordination service on March 23rd as pastor of Resurrection OPC in State College, PA. Praise God and pray for His blessing on their new ministry!

“ ‘...All that the LORD says, that I must do...If [I should be given] his house full of silver and gold, I would not be able to go beyond the word of the LORD, to do either good or bad...What the LORD speaks, that will I speak.’ ”

-Numbers 23:26b; 24:13

A Study of the Shorter Catechism
“A Gracious and Holy God”

-Rev. Charles R. Biggs

Question 43: What is the preface to the ten commandments? **Answer:** The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, I am the Lord thy God which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage (Ex. 20:2).

Question 44: What doth the preface to the ten commandments teach us? **Answer:** The preface to the ten commandments teacheth us that because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all His commandments (Luke 1:74,75; 1 Pet. 1:15-19).

Memory Verses: “...That we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days” (Luke 1:74-75).

An Explanation: In Zechariah’s song of praise in Luke 1:74-75, we see how we are to think of and live out our lives before God as His beloved children: God has delivered believers “from the hand of our enemies” so that we might serve Him without fear, “in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days”! Believers are to live out their lives before the face of God, in fearless, courageous, holy, and righteous obedience to His commands. Why? Because God is Lord and King, and in Jesus Christ, He has become our Redeemer and Father!

The Law, expressed in the Ten Commandments, reveals the gracious, holy character of God and His will for His people. Yet before God gives the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, He reveals His saving love, grace, and power for believers to remind us that we need His love, grace, and power from His Spirit to live the holy and righteous lives He has called us to in Christ. Without grace, not one sinner could ever please God and perfectly keep His commandments in words, thoughts, and/or deeds (Rom. 3:23; 8:1-4). God redeems us to live holy lives through faith in Christ (Titus 2:11-14).

In the preface to the Ten Commandments, we see, as Dr. Joel Beeke says, that in the time of the law there is grace; in the time of grace, there is law. In justification, law and grace are opposed; in sanctification, law and grace are friends (Rom. 8:3-4). God teaches believers that our deliverance is all because of His grace—nothing that we have done, merited, or earned—all of grace: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you...out of the house of slavery” (Ex. 20:2).

Salvation is deliverance from slavery, not merely from physical bondage as in Egypt, typical for the Old Covenant Church, but from the spiritual bondage and oppression of sin and the evil one (Eph. 2:2-4). Once delivered from that terrible bondage, believers are brought into a state of grace (Col. 1:13-14), so that we are obligated (privileged!) to live holy and righteous lives before God, displaying to the world how man was created to live (1 Sam. 12:24). This way of freedom in Christ is a life of holiness and righteousness that is particularly revealed in the Ten Commandments.

Prayer: Father and God, thank You that You have delivered me from slavery and bondage to sin and Satan. Let me live before You all the days of my life in holiness and righteousness, serving You without fear.

“If there is no better remedy against anger and impatience, we will have made no small progress if we have so learned to meditate on God’s providence...that we keep coming back to this thought: the Lord has willed it, we must therefore bear it patiently.”

-John Calvin

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon:

“Rejected”



-Rev. Charles R. Biggs

Theme of Sermon:

Our covenantal God and Father is well pleased when His people seek to strictly and fully obey His commands in reliance upon His grace. Obedience to God's word from the heart is the pleasing sacrifice that honors and glorifies God.

Scripture Lesson:

Micah 6:6-8; Hebrews 10:1-10

Sermon Text:

1 Samuel 15

Hymns

All Glory, Laud, and Honor, 235
Christ, of All My Hopes the Ground, 518
Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners, 498

Questions for Meditation and Preparation

- Read 1 Sam. 15. Children: After much silence, Samuel speaks. What does God say through him to Saul? What does Saul do?
- Why is Saul sent on this mission to "devote to destruction" Amalek and the Amalekites?
- Why do you think Samuel is so very emotional over Saul's response (see 15:11b, 16, 35, 16:1)?
- What do you learn about the importance of obedience to God in this passage? Shall we memorize 15:22-23?
- Is Saul's reaction to the LORD's word through Samuel true repentance? Why, or why not? (15:24-26, 30-31)
- What does it mean to say that God "regretted" or "repenteth" (KJV)? (Also 15:29, 35; cf. Gen. 6:6-7). Don't we confess that God is "Spirit, infinite, eternal, unchangeable...?" How might you resolve this potential tension with biblical understanding?

*“God is not a 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