

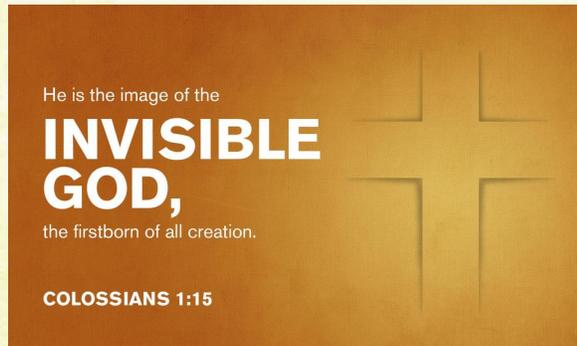


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC's 15th Anniversary Celebration

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

Week Ending March 17th, 2018



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!

Our monthly fellowship lunch will be held this Sunday at the church building after morning worship; the theme is Easter! Warming trays will be available for use.

Missions March continues as we welcome Mr. Josiah Walters, missionary to Chad, to give a presentation on his translation work this Lord's Day. For more information on outreach and evangelism, please go to www.outwardopc.com; if you are interested in short-term missions, opportunities to consider can be found at <https://www.opcstm.org>.

Lowell Ivey's testimony of God's saving grace can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=38yMUYoX38w; he now pastors Reformation OPC in Virginia Beach.

Locust Street Film Night on Mar. 16th will feature Preston Sturges' comedic masterpiece "The Lady Eve" (1941). Come enjoy dinner at 6pm and the film at 7pm.

Men's and boy's breakfast on Mar. 24th from 8:30-10am; Mr. Bill Domanski will lead a discussion of vocation and calling as we continue our study of Rod Dreher's *The Benedict Option*.

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

A congregational meeting has been called by the Session for April 8th in order to vote on candidate Bob Trombadore for elder. Bob has completed his training and written and oral exams and has been certified as a candidate by the Session; feel free to speak with him about any questions you may have.

Women's Bible studies meet in the daytime on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm, going through 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).

"The Word is the chariot of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit the guider of the Word."
-Stephen Charnock

A Study of the Shorter Catechism “*Worshipping and Imagining God, Part 2*”

-Rev. Charles R. Biggs

An Explanation, Continued: God desires us to be people of His Word. The Psalms are God’s merciful and gracious cure for our idolatry, an inspired songbook to capture our imaginations for the worship of God. We are not to make images of God or worship Him through images (Ex. 20:4-6). Yet God graciously reveals Himself through His word using images such as metaphors and similes, describing God truly in word-pictures as Shepherd (Ps. 23), King (Ps. 10:16), Friend (Isa. 41:8), and Bridegroom (Isa. 61:10). God reveals Himself using anthropomorphisms (God referring to Himself as having hands, mouth, etc.; Ps. 89:13, 2 Chron. 36:12) and anthropopathisms (God revealing Himself with man’s emotions, like grief, regret, jealousy, anger: Gen. 6:6; 1 Sam. 15:11, 29; Isa. 63:10; Ex. 34:14). God reveals Himself through types and shadows in the Old Covenant (sacrifices, priests, prophets, kings, temples, feasts, etc.), and in man himself, God’s true image-bearer (Gen. 1:26-27; 9:6; 1 Cor. 15:49; Col. 3:10). What is God like? He is revealed and reflected in man, and most fully in Christ, the Perfect Man, the True Image of God, who teaches us to worship God alone in spirit and truth (2 Cor. 4:4; Col. 1:15; John 4:24).

In our worship, God has revealed Himself tangibly through the sacraments, accommodating Himself to us so that we will not be over-tempted to gaze on the mysterious and glorious Godhead that is secret and not revealed to us or to depict God in a way that would displease Him. Rather, He comes down to us in His grace so that we might know the truth He has revealed to us. What is God like? Let us see, feel, smell, and taste through water, bread, and wine. These sacramental images please God; they are not to be worshipped, but they reveal the true and living God! Let them capture our imaginations as God’s people.

Let us take this seriously and neither make nor worship images of God. Both of these aspects of the Second Commandment must be stressed. The Larger Catechism addresses this in the answer to Question 109: “The sins forbidden in the second commandment are...the making any representation of God, of all or of any of the three persons, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever; all worshipping of it, or God in it or by it.” When we think of God, we want to imagine Him according to His Word. We claim the Bible is necessary to truly know God, but can we also affirm it as sufficient? Is the Bible sufficient to depict God to our imaginations so that we might truly know Him and how He wants us to worship Him?

When going to the museum to enjoy Christian art or visiting an ancient cathedral with stained-glass windows with pictures of the Triune God, we should desire to be very careful and watchful of our sinful, idolatrous hearts. We can appreciate good art, recognizing God’s common grace through the beauty of a gifted artist, but we should also be thoughtful about how we can unintentionally cause ourselves and others to stumble in our imaginations and the worship of the true God. We should not undervalue art or ban it altogether, but we ought to be wise and allow the Holy Spirit through His very clear commandments to inform our imaginations and consciences with wisdom and discernment about this important issue. We must remember that the wise limits that God’s commandments teach us are for our further freedom, to help us live as He intended us to live and love as He loves.

“We ask for... forgiveness to be granted us as we also forgive our debtors, that is, as we pardon those who have somehow wronged or harmed us, or who have offended us either by word or deed... The kind of pardon and forgiveness which we must offer consists in our readiness to drive all anger, hatred and vengeful desires from our hearts, to forget every wrong and offence done to us and to harbor ill-will to no one.”

-John Calvin

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon: "Goliath"

-Rev. Charles Biggs



Theme of Sermon:

Seed of Woman versus Seed of the Serpent (Round 2): God's people need to know their enemy well—his vile, malicious, abominable character, his proud taunts and threats, his evil and cunning strategies against all good, the nightmare of slavery to sin over which he is harsh master, and especially his decisive defeat by God's anointed Champion and Lord!

Scripture Lesson:

Nehemiah 4:1-9; Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Peter 5:8-11

Sermon Text:

1 Samuel 17

Hymns

Sing, Choirs of New Jerusalem, 271

Bow Down Thine Ear, O Lord, and Hear, 91

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, 92

Questions for Meditation and Preparation

- Read 1 Sam. 17. Who is God's champion? From this passage, and the first sermon on this passage, how would you characterize your champion?
- Who are your heroes? Why? Think about this one deeply from the heart. Who is your greatest hero, and why?
- From 1 Sam. 17, how is our enemy described? What is our enemy like? How might we learn the "schemes" or "designs" of God's foul enemy the devil from this passage (2 Cor. 2:11)? How might this accentuate the greatness and power of our Savior?!
- From other passages of Scripture, how is our enemy described? How are we to face him? Give specific examples.
- Job 2:10 teaches us that God sends both good and evil. Why would our good God send the evil of warfare upon His people? (Hint: Psa. 18:34-35).

*"A holy violence, a conflict, a warfare, a fight, a soldier's life, a wrestling,
are spoken of as characteristics of the true Christian."*

-J. C. Ryle