

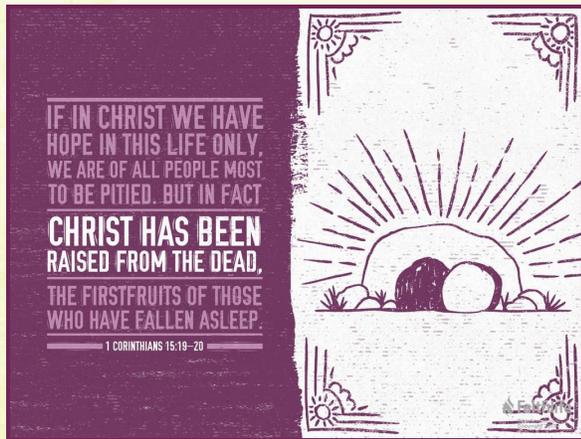


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC's 15th Anniversary Celebration

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

Week Ending March 24th, 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!

New members Bill Domanski and John Southard will be formally received during morning worship this Lord's Day, Mar. 25th.

Evening worship this Lord's Day at 6pm; we have the privilege of welcoming Rev. John Garissi to the pulpit to bring us the Word.

Missions March is coming to a close! 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.

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).

"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

-Ephesians 6:10-12

A Study of the Shorter Catechism
“Worshipping and Imagining God, Part 3”

-Rev. Charles R. Biggs

An Explanation, Concluded: Let our imaginations be saturated with Scripture and not with pictures or paintings of what we think God is like. It seems clear to me that pictures of God or Jesus can never be pleasing to our Sovereign God in worship, and it is unwise even to make them because they can never reveal God as clearly and powerfully as His Word does. What has been created and painted in history may be appreciated to some degree as art, and we cannot change what man has done in history with his gifts. But shall we continue creating paintings and pieces of art depicting God? Let’s think together about this as a church of this present age NOW. It seems to me that the best art would teach us about God in very human, common-grace ways, showing a father loving his children, a couple embracing in covenant unity and love, a faithful shepherd, a caring mother, the majesty of a king, an anchored ship in the midst of a storm, a shield, etc. without seeking to depict God Himself or the Incarnation of God. Perhaps our great God has revealed to us the best art subjects in the Psalms and other biblical imagery. Perhaps Rembrandt’s best works of art were portraits and not depictions of God or Jesus Christ.

How can you paint a picture of Jesus Christ, the God-man, that is both aesthetically accurate and theologically pleasing to God? Truth, beauty, and goodness are given and defined by God, our Creator. If all three are come from God, should there ever be a tension between them? Meditate upon this. According to God’s revelation can something be truly beautiful, and not at the same time true and good by definition? I invite you to think hard about this. Beauty is not merely “in the eye of the beholder;” it is defined by God, the one, great, sovereign Beholder of all things! It is what He reveals. You might be able to depict artistically and faithfully what a first century Israelite male of Jesus’ time might have looked like, but can you depict that He is one Person with two natures, God and man in permanent, glorious, hypostatic union? I think not. What is idolatry but putting something untrue, un-beautiful, and un-good in the place of where God, and/or Jesus Christ should be? If one cannot faithfully and truthfully depict Jesus Christ, and has created a rendition of a man designated “Jesus,” is this not idolatry, even before the worship begins? As Pastor Brian Cosby put it helpfully, “inserting an ‘invented’ Christ in the place of the true revealed Christ in Scripture is idolatry.”

According to the Second Commandment, idolatry is not just when you worship, but when you make an image of God or Jesus Christ you intend to, or potentially could, worship. Think about it, prayerfully and carefully reading Exodus 20:4-6 again. Let us worship the true God truly as He has revealed in His truth; this is the design and intent of the Second Commandment. Ask yourself as you meditate and pray through God’s Law (Ps. 1): How do you specifically see God and His character in questions 49-52? How do you specifically see Christ and your need of Him today? Focus your sights on God, His glorious Christ, and your need of ongoing repentance and faith!

Prayer: Holy Father, my Sovereign Lord, keep me from idolatry. Forgive me for making images and at times being tempted to worship them by accessing You through them rather than through Jesus Christ alone. Please teach me to not only acknowledge You as the true God, but to worship You in spirit and truth. Help our congregation to always be faithful in this, especially in our corporate worship service. Let us worship strictly according to your Word! In Jesus’ name, Amen.

“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:

“Resurrection: the Heart of the Gospel”

-Rev. Charles Biggs

Theme of Sermon:

The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the only hope for sinners to be raised to a new and righteous life in Him that begins an everlasting blessedness with God that all believers will enjoy throughout eternity!

Scripture Lesson:

Acts 3:12-26; Romans 6:1-11

Sermon Text:

1 Corinthians 15:1-34

Hymns

Worship Christ, the Risen King, 286
Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain, 265
Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured, 429

Questions for Meditation and Preparation

- Read 1 Cor. 15 (especially verses 1-34). Children: I have subtitled the sermon for this week “The Heart of the Gospel.” Why would you think that the resurrection is the “heart” of the Gospel? Give two illustrations of this.
- Articulate the Gospel-Good News of Jesus in your own words. If an unbeliever asks you this week about how to understand the Gospel, how would you respond? (Let’s pray that this will happen—that someone will ask!).
- What is our responsibility/response to God as professing believers to the Gospel? (Hint: 1 Cor. 15:1-2; Col. 1:23; Gal. 2:14a).
- How is the resurrection of Christ beneficial to believers? List three specific ways.
- According to the Apostle Paul, what would be four painful consequences especially for professing believers, if there is no resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12-19)?

“And they have conquered [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

-Revelation 12:11