

First Presbyterian Church

POOLER, GEORGIA



*A Service of Praise and Worship of
Almighty God
On the Lord's Day*

January 12, 2025

912.330.9415 • firstprespooler.org

*Seeking to glorify God by holding out the hope of the Gospel of
Jesus Christ to our community, our country, and our world to
impact others to do the same.*

A service of praise and worship of Almighty God on the Lord's Day

January 12, 2025 ☞ 10:30 in the morning

Order of Worship

(☞-Please Stand)

Preparation for Worship

"The LORD is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him." - Habakkuk 2:20

☞ Call to Worship

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Psalm 107:1-3

The one true God graciously invites us into his presence to worship him in spirit and in truth, and we eagerly respond in faith. This begins a dialogue which will continue to the end of the service as God initiates with us, and we respond to him.

☞ Response of Praise in Song

How Firm a Foundation

Trinity Hymnal #94

☞ Prayer of Invocation & Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

☞ Worship in Song

O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Jesus, Strong and Kind

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Corporate Confession of Sin

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Hide your face from our sins, and blot out our iniquities. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Then we will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

☞ Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism 27-28

Q27. *What do you understand by the providence of God?*

A. God's providence is his almighty and everywhere present power; whereby, as with his hand, he upholds heaven and earth and all creatures; and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things come to us not by chance, but by his fatherly hand.

Q28. *What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things, and still upholds them by his providence?*

A. We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creatures shall separate us from his love; for all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they cannot so much as move.

Pastoral Prayer

Seeking to glorify God by holding out the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our community, our country, and our world to impact others to do the same.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;
who conducts his affairs with justice.
For the righteous will never be moved;
he will be remembered forever.

Psalm 112:5-6

*With grateful hearts for God's
extravagant mercy and blessing,
we joyfully present our offerings
to the Lord for the ministry of
our church and community.*

Offertory Song

Open the Eyes of My Heart
(Instrumental)

⌘ The Doxology

The word "doxology," coined in the 17th century, is a combination of the words "glory" and "word." A doxology is a "word of glory," a hymn of praise to the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), who is one divine nature in three Persons.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Bill Gleason

THE UNCONVENTIONAL KINGDOM: STUDIES IN MARK'S GOSPEL
XVI. "The Parables of the Seeds" (part 2)
Mark 4:26-34

⌘ Closing Hymn

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

⌘ Benediction

Ephesians 6:23-24

Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

Assisting in Worship: Ruling Elder John Twibell

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Bill Gleason

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Announcements

Please note: Ruling Elder Randy Grovenstein concluded a "sabbatical" in November 2024 and has rejoined the active Session. Effective January 1, 2025, Ruling Elder Stephen Mullis began a "sabbatical" from active service on the Session.

Today	11:45	Coffee, Cakes, & Conversations	Fellowship Hall
	Evening	LIFE Groups	In Homes (check with your host for start time)
Wed.	6:30 pm	Youth Group	Youth Room/Fellowship Hall
		Women's Study	Women's Classroom
Thurs.	6:00 pm	Joint Officers' Meeting	
Fri.	8:00 am	Men's Study	Conference Room or Zoom



This Week

Lost and Found | Please check the Lost and Found (by the Bookstore shelf in the Fellowship Hall) for your belongings. There are quite a few dishes and other items that miss their owners. Thanks!

Events

Touch-a-Truck | Touch a Truck is returning this year, on Sat. Feb. 22nd, and there are several ways to get involved. See the bulletin insert for more information. FPCP women, be on the lookout for an additional opportunity to help out.

LIFE Groups | LIFE Groups resume this evening. If you are not yet connected to a group, and would like to be, please let Crystal Twibell know. Her email is Crystal@firstprespooler.com

Youth Group | Youth group resumes on **Jan. 15th at 6:30 pm and will meet every two weeks.** The youth includes a time of study, fellowship and a meal.

Women's Study | **Beginning Jan. 15th and meeting every two weeks,** the women will be studying the book of James, using the book *Steadfast* by Courtney Doctor. Books are available in the Women's Classroom. See Maggie Banks for more info.

Women's Game Night | **Wed. Jan 22nd, at 6:00 pm.** FPCP ladies of all ages are invited to the first game night of 2025. Dinner and childcare are provided.

Men's Study | The men's study meets **this Friday, January 17th at 8 am,** at church or via Zoom. Email Bill - bill@firstprespooler.com, if you would like the Zoom link.

Sermon Notes

THE UNCONVENTIONAL KINGDOM: STUDIES IN MARK'S GOSPEL

XVI. "The Parables of the Seeds"

Mark 4:26-34

I. The Secrets of the Kingdom Revealed

- God's Kingdom Advances _____ - Whereas by Nature We'd Prefer It to Triumph All at Once! (vv. 28, 32)

- God's Kingdom Faces Opposition _____ - Whereas by Nature We'd Prefer It to Be Smooth Sailing All the Way!
 - By forces from _____ (4:15,17,19; Jn 16:33)

 - By forces from _____ (Mt 13:24ff; Rom 7:14ff)

II. The Secrets of the Kingdom Applied

- We need to resist our doubts and cultivate _____ (Phil 1:6)

- We need to resist our faintheartedness and cultivate _____ (Eph 6:10; 1 Cor 16:13f)

- We need to resist our frustration and cultivate _____ (Gal 5:22; 1 Thess 5:14)
 - With _____

 - With _____

 - With _____

Life Group Discussion Guide:
"The Parables of the Seeds – Part 2"
January 12, 2025

READ: Mark 4:26-34

DISCUSS:

1. What "secrets" of God's kingdom does Jesus reveal to us here?

2. Are there other aspects of God's ways/kingdom that seem puzzling or unsettling to you?

3. What are some things the sermon suggested we need to "resist" in light of the kingdom secrets Jesus reveals in these parables? Some things we need to "cultivate?"

4. At this point, we are 17 messages into this sermon series on Mark. What have you found most helpful to you in understanding Jesus better and in enjoying your relationship with him more?

PRAY:

1. For the Lord's continued blessings on our church in 2025 – on her leaders, members, and ministries.

2. Praise and thanksgiving for the new members Christ has been bringing our way.

3. For strength and healing for Adeline Hayes and others who are struggling with illnesses and pain of various kinds

4. For growing love and unity within the FPCP family.

5. Share needs and praises within your group.