

First Presbyterian Church

POOLER, GEORGIA



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

January 5, 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 5, 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

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Psalm 100:1-3

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

Come Christians, Join to Sing

Trinity Hymnal #302

☞ 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

Christ the True and Better

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Corporate Confession of Sin

From Romans 7

Minister: *Gracious God, we know that your law is spiritual, but we, your people, are of the flesh, sold under sin.*

People: We don't understand our own actions. For we don't do what we want, but the very things we hate.

Minister: *When we do what we don't want, we agree with the law, that it is good. So it's no longer we who do it, but sin that dwells within us.*

People: We have the desire to do what's right, but not the ability to carry it out. For we don't do the good we want, but the evil we don't want is what we keep on doing.

Minister: *We delight in the law of God in our inner being, but we see in our members another law waging war against the law of our mind and making us captive to the law of sin that dwells in our members.*

All: Who will deliver us from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

Romans 8:1-2, 38-39

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

✠ Confession of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.* The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Although it was not actually written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated as a baptismal confession, probably in the second century, and developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century.

**suffered separation from God*

***universal*

Pastoral Prayer

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Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Luke 6:38

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

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

Great is thy Faithfulness
Trinity Hymnal #32

⌘ 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"
Mark 4:26-34

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

⌘ Closing Hymn

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

⌘ Benediction

Numbers 6:24-25

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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.

This Week

Today	11:45 am	Town Hall Lunch	Fellowship Hall
Wed.	6:00 pm	5:11 Group	The Gleasons' Home 17 Belle Gate Ct., Pooler
Thurs.	6:30 am	Front Porch Society	The Hardens' Home 156 Carrie Rd, Bloomingtondale
Fri.	8:00 am	Men's Study	The Church or on Zoom



Events

Town Hall Lunch | Please join us this afternoon, immediately after the worship service for a meal together. If you need gluten or dairy free options, those are available in the kitchen. If you have any questions, see Maggie Banks.

5:11 Group | January meeting, **this Wednesday, January 9th, at 6 pm**. This group is for women over 55, and the theme is from I Thessalonians 5:11 – "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." For further information contact Edna Gleason.

Front Porch Society | Front Porch Society, a men's discussion group, will resume **this Thursday, January 9th, at 6:30 am**. This group meets at Clay Harden's home - 156 Carrie Rd., Bloomingtondale. For more information, you can contact Clay at Clay.Harden@gulfstream.com.

Men's Study | The men's study will resume **this Friday, January 10th at 8 am**, at church or via Zoom. Email Bill - bill@firstprespooler.com, if you would like the Zoom link.

Both Sunday School & LIFE Groups will resume Jan. 12.

Youth Group will resume on Jan. 15th (every other Wednesday)

Women's Study | **Beginning January 15th on Wednesday evenings**, 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.

Ministry Opportunities

Volunteers needed | We need volunteers in a variety of capacities, including nursery helpers, after-worship snack providers, and ushers. Please contact Crystal Twibell to find out how you can help. crystal@firstprespooler.com

Sermon Notes

THE UNCONVENTIONAL KINGDOM: STUDIES IN MARK'S GOSPEL

XVI. "The Parables of the Seeds"

Mark 4:26-34

I. Some Certainties for Our Hearts

- The harvest is _____ (v. 29)
- The impact will be _____ (v. 32; cf. Ps 2; Is 2; Rev 11)
- The seed is _____ (vv. 26,32; Rom 1:16)
- The blessing is _____ (vv. 11, 32ff.)

II. Some Mysteries for Our Minds

- Established by an unlikely _____
- Advances in an unlikely _____
- o Its beginnings are _____ (v. 31)
- o Its progress seems _____ (vv. 27f.)

III. A Mission for Our Hands

The mission: To join with Jesus in sowing of the seed of his Word

- Later _____ in the "Great Commission" (Mt. 28)
- Already _____ in the Parables of the Seeds (v. 26)