

Announcements

LIFE Groups | LIFE Groups meet this week in homes around the area (see below for your group). If you are not yet in a group, please contact Crystal Twibell at crystal@firstprespooler.com and she will help you connect with a group that meets near you.

Davis - 12:30 at the Chastains'
McClellan - 5pm at the McClellans'
Campbell - not meeting
Harden - 5pm at the Hardens'
Rincon - 5pm at the Larsons'

VBS Applications are Open! | VBS will be June 1-5 from 9am-noon, for rising PreK-5th Grade. If you know that you'd like to attend, letting us know early helps us plan more effectively. Huge thanks to those of you who have already signed up! You can access applications for students and volunteers at fcpooler.org/VBS2026

VBS Skit Practice | 5pm on Wednesday. If you are in the skits, please plan to attend.

Lilies for Easter | We are extending the deadline for lilies through this Wednesday. If you have not yet purchased a lily and would like to, you can scan the QR code to the right, or contact Crystal Twibell.

"Spring Breeze" Church App Update | All month, staff will be on hand after the worship service (by the "Welcome" wall) to help set up our church app, update photos, answer questions, etc. We would love if everyone had an updated photo, so we will also have a photographer on hand.

Young Adult Game Night | April 4th at 5pm at the Lamsons' home. If you can attend, please RSVP to Annie so she can have dinner ready. children@firstprespooler.com.

State of the Church Luncheon | Will be held on April 12th. There will be various ministry updates as well as a financial report. All members should make an effort to attend.

Women's Retreat | Registration is now open for our women's retreat, open to ladies 3rd grade and up. This year's topic is "Made for More" and is about our identity in Christ. We will learn, laugh, eat, and play together. You can register by scanning the QR code at the left.

Communicants Class | From April 12 to May 24 our 3rd - 5th grade will be going through the curriculum *Preparing for the Table*, during Sunday School in order to foster a conversation about church membership. If you have any questions, you can see our Children's Ministry director, Annie Lamson. We hope to also have a summer class for the youth, which will be announced once all the details are confirmed. ass for the youth, which will be announced once all the details are confirmed.

A Service of Praise and Worship of Almighty God on the Lord's Day
March 22, 2026

Call to Worship: Psalm 117 (Responsive)

Praise the LORD, all you nations!

Extol him, all you peoples!

*For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.*

Praise the LORD!

Response of Praise: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Trinity Hymnal #521

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. **[Refrain]**

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found:
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. **[Refrain]**

All Creatures of Our God and King

Trinity Hymnal #115

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice with us and sing
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rising morn in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one.
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Invocation & The 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.

Confession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Questions 29-30

Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, Savior?

Because he saves us from all our sins, and because salvation is not to be sought or found in anyone else.

Do those who seek their salvation or well-being in saints, in themselves, or anywhere else, also believe in the only Savior Jesus?

No. Though they boast of him in words, they in fact deny the only Saviour Jesus.

For one of two things must be true: either Jesus is not a complete Savior, or those who by true faith accept this Savior must find in him all that is necessary for their salvation.

The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen. Amen.

Corporate Confession of Sin:

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good, and all our shortcomings and offenses.

You alone know how often we have sinned, in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, and in forgetting your love. O Lord, have mercy on us, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased you.

Teach us to hate our errors; cleanse us from our secret faults; and forgive our sins, for the sake of your dear Son. And help us, we pray, to live in your light and walk in your ways; according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardoning Grace: Psalm 118:5-6

Out of my distress I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me free.
The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.
What can man do to me?

Tithes and Offerings: Psalm 112:5-6

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

Offertory: Come Thou Almighty King

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us, Lord, full obedience
Holy reverence, true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of pow'r that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights
of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Pastoral Prayer

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-7

(p. 148 of Pew Bible)

[1] “And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. [2] You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. [3] Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal-peor, for the LORD your God destroyed from among you all the men who followed the Baal of Peor. [4] But you who held fast to the LORD your God are all alive today. [5] See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. [6] Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ [7] For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks Be to God!*

Hymn of Preparation: *The Church's One Foundation*

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,
In the dawning of the King.
He, the theme of heaven's praises,
Robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
Now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ who condescended,
Took on flesh to ransom us.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,
He is the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering,
Never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
Come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfilment
Of the law in Him we stand.

Come, behold the wondrous mystery,
Slain by death, the God of life.
But no grave could ever restrain Him,
Praise the Lord. He is alive.
What a foretaste of deliverance,
How unwavering our hope.
Christ, in power resurrected,
As we will be when He comes.

Preaching of God's Word: Ephesians 2:11-22

(Page 976 of the pew Bible)

[11] Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—**[12]** remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

[13] But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

[14] For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **[15]** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **[16]** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

[17] And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

[18] For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. **[19]** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **[20]** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **[21]** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

[22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Closing Hymn: Christ is Mine Forevermore

Mine are days that God has numbered;
I was made to walk with Him.
Yet, I look for worldly treasure
And forsake the King of kings.

But mine is hope in my Redeemer;
Though I fall, His love is sure.
For Christ has paid for every failing;
I am His forevermore.

Mine are tears in times of sorrow,
Darkness not yet understood.
Through the valley I must travel
Where I see no earthly good.

But mine is peace that flows from Heaven,
And the strength in times of need.
I know my pain will not be wasted;
Christ completes his work in me.

Mine are days here as a stranger,
Pilgrim on a narrow way.
One with Christ I will encounter
Harm and hatred for His name.

But mine is armour for this battle
Strong enough to last the war,
And He has said He will deliver
Safely to the golden shore.

And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk.
For there my heart has found its treasure;
Christ is mine forevermore.
Christ is mine forevermore.
Christ is mine forevermore.

Benediction

Sermon Notes

But Now...

Ephesians 2:11–22

[¹¹] Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—[¹²] remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. [¹³] But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. [¹⁴] For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility [¹⁵] by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, [¹⁶] and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. [¹⁷] And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. [¹⁸] For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. [¹⁹] So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [²⁰] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [²¹] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [²²] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

The Big Idea: The Big Idea: The blood of Christ alone brings peace.

I. You’uns were far off (vv. 11-13).

A. Horizontally (v. 11).

B. Vertically (v. 12).

II. Know how Christ alone brings us near (vv. 13-18).

III. Dwell in our new identity (vv. 19-22).

LIFE Group Discussion Guide

March 22, 2026

Some Questions to Discuss:

1. What stood out/piqued your interest in today's text/sermon?
2. How does our two kinds of alienation sync with the Great Commandment?
3. Does Paul suggest that the Gentiles are somehow innocent because they were without Divine witness? What does this teach us about the necessity of missions?
4. Why is it not enough to simply change our religion or become more spiritual?
5. Why should we preach to ourselves instead of simply listening to ourselves as it relates to our identity?

Some matters for prayer:

- ❖ Pray for the upcoming officer's training.
- ❖ Pray for the searches related to our two staff positions (Assistant Pastor/Music Director).
- ❖ Pray for the covenant children who will be going through our upcoming communicant's class. Pray for the middle school/high school kids who will do so this summer.
- ❖ Pray for our upcoming VBS, and the potential for outreach into our community.
- ❖ Pray for those sick, or grieving.
- ❖ Pray for our Missions Committee and Session as we seek to expand our missions giving and involvement.