

# *First Presbyterian Church*

## POOLER, GEORGIA



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

*August 23, 2026*

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*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.*

# Order of Worship

If you are able, please silence and put away your cell phones.

(~~⌘~~ Please stand, if able)

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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

## ⌘ CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 97:1-2, 8-9

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!  
Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Zion hears and is glad,  
and the daughters of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O LORD.  
For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.

## ⌘ HYMNS OF PRAISE

### The Hope of the Poor (Psalm 9)

The Lord is a home for all the oppressed  
in times of trouble and need.  
To all who will come and trust in his name,  
their refuge and strength he will be.

**Chorus: The needy will not be forsaken,  
and the hope of the poor will not die,  
for God who is mighty in judgment  
does not forget their cry.**

Arise, O my Lord, and answer my call,  
my heart cries out to be heard.  
I've no other hope than your gracious love;  
I trust and cling to your word.

**Bridge: The Lord has heard our cry,  
the Lord has heard our cry.  
The Lord has not forsaken us,  
the Lord has heard our cry.**

So sing out to God who sits on the throne,  
proclaim his marvelous ways.  
Our rescue has come! For all he has done  
we offer our lives in praise.

## ⌘ HYMN OF PRAISE

### Jesus, Strong and Kind

Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to him.  
No one else can satisfy;  
I should come to him.

**For the Lord is good and faithful;  
he will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus:  
Jesus, strong and kind.**

Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to him.  
No one else can be my strength;  
I should come to him.

Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to him.  
No one else can be my shield;  
I should come to him.

Jesus said if I am lost, he will come to me.  
And he showed me on that cross  
he will come to me.

## ⌘ 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.

## ⌘ CONFESSION OF FAITH

### **Heidelberg Catechism Questions 88-91**

*What is the true repentance or conversion of man?*

**It is the dying of the old nature and the coming to life of the new.**

*What is the dying of the old nature?*

**It is to grieve with heartfelt sorrow that we have offended God by our sin, and more and more to hate it and flee from it.**

*What is the coming to life of the new nature?*

**It is a heartfelt joy in God through Christ, and a love and delight to live according to the will of God in all good works.**

*But what are good works?*

**Only those which are done out of true faith, in accordance with the law of God, and to his glory, and not those based on our own opinion or on precepts of men.**

## ⌘ 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.

## MISSIONS REPORT

### CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

O most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who pardons all such as truly repent and turn to you; we humbly confess our sins and implore your mercy.

We have not loved you with a pure and fervent heart; neither have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justly, nor loved mercy, nor walked humbly with our God.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, according to your steadfast love. According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out our iniquity. Create in us a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit in us. Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with your free Spirit. Amen.

### SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

**ASSURANCE OF PARDONING GRACE**  
**John 3:16-17**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

**THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**  
**Malachi 3:10**

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

**OFFERTORY**

**Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul**

Dear refuge of my weary soul,  
On Thee, when sorrows rise  
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll,  
My fainting hope relies  
To Thee I tell each rising grief,  
For Thou alone canst heal  
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief,  
For every pain I feel

Thy mercy seat is open still,  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will,  
And wait beneath Thy feet,  
Thy mercy seat is open still,  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will,  
And wait beneath Thy feet

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail,  
I fear to call Thee mine  
The springs of comfort seem to fail,  
And all my hopes decline  
Yet gracious God, where shall I flee?  
Thou art my only trust  
And still my soul would cleave to Thee  
Though prostrate in the dust

**⌘ 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**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**1 Peter 1:1-9**

p. 1014 in the pew Bible

**Minister:** *This is the Word of the Lord*

**People:** Thanks be to God!

## ⌘ THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

### Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea,  
a great High Priest whose name is "Love,"  
who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on his hands;  
my name is written on his heart;  
I know that while in heav'n he stands,  
no tongue can bid me thence depart;  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
and tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look and see him there  
who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died,  
my sinful soul is counted free;  
for God the Just is satisfied  
to look on him and pardon me;  
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb!  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness;  
the great unchangeable I AM,  
the King of glory and of grace!  
One with himself I cannot die;  
my soul is purchased by his blood;  
my life is hid with Christ on high,  
with Christ my Savior and my God;  
with Christ my Savior and my God!

## PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

**Sermon Series: *Daniel: God's Kingdom Rises***  
**Daniel 1: "God Gives Graciously and Faithfully"**  
p. 737 in the pew Bible

## ⌘ CLOSING HYMN

### And Can it Be?

And can it be that I should gain  
an int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died he for me who caused his pain?  
For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

He left his Father's throne above,  
so free, so infinite his grace!  
Emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!

No condemnation now I dread:  
Jesus and all in him is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine!  
Bold I approach th' eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my own!  
Bold I approach th' eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

## ⌘ BENEDICTION

**Assisting in Worship this Week: Mr. Jeff Christopher**  
**Preaching: Rev. Dr. Kyle McClellan**

*Sermon Notes*  
*Daniel: God's Kingdom Rises*  
**Daniel 1**  
**"God Gives Graciously and Faithfully"**

**The Big Idea:** God gives all that is required to live faithfully in exile.

**I. Wrestle with the Melodic Line.**

- a. Plot?
- b. How does one live in exile? (cf.: 1 Peter 1:1-2).
- c. "God's Kingdom Rises"

**II. God gives faithfully (vv. 1-2).**

**III. Feel the tension of faithful living in exile (vv. 3-8).**

**IV. God gives the necessary gifts (vv. 9-20).**

**V. It's not a sprint . . . (vv. 1, 21).**

## Announcements

**Audio/Visual Upgrade** | You may have also noticed the new bulletin design for the past few weeks. That is, in part, a temporary solution to our continuing audio & visual (A/V) issues. The deacons (and others) are working diligently on an overhaul of the A/V system and upgrades to the soundscape in the Sanctuary that will be a long-term solution to all of the issues we have been having. We apologize for the continued frustration we know this is causing. Thank you to everyone who has been so patient. We should have a substantive update soon.

**Child Safety Training** | If you are interested in serving with our children or youth, and have not completed the mandatory Child Safety Course, this quarter's training will be held on August 23rd at 4pm. Please RSVP to Annie ([Children@FirstPresPooler.com](mailto:Children@FirstPresPooler.com))

**Prayer Meeting & Sunday Supper** | Please note that this month's prayer meeting has been rescheduled to August 23rd (at 5:30pm). Childcare is provided.

**Young Adult Game Night** | All young adults are invited to the Lamsons' for dinner & games this Saturday at 5:30pm. If you can attend, please RSVP to Annie Lamson ([children@FirstPresPooler.com](mailto:children@FirstPresPooler.com)).

**LIFE Groups** | LIFE Groups **resume on September 13th** and meet on 2nd & 4th Sundays. **There are sign-up sheets for LIFE Groups in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up even if you have been in a group previously.** Groups are spread out geographically & meet at various times throughout the afternoon/evening. If you have questions or don't see a group that will work, you can contact Crystal Twibell ([Crystal@FirstPresPooler.com](mailto:Crystal@FirstPresPooler.com)).

**Sunday School** | Sunday School resumes for all ages on **September 6th at 9:30am.**

**Youth Group** | Will resume for students in 6th–12th grade **on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays** of each month, beginning on **September 2nd**. Dinner is provided.

**Women's Study** | Begins on **September 2nd at 6:00pm**. We will be studying Hebrews, using a study guide by Lydia Brownback. Study guides will be available next Sunday in the Women's Classroom.

**Fall Festival** | Save the Date for our annual Fall Festival & Chili Cook-Off on **October 4th**. It's a lot of fun for the whole family! There will be plenty of food, games, and other activities. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors.

### Hymn of the Month:

The Hymn of the Month for August is "The Hope of the Poor" by Wendell Kimbrough. It is an arrangement of Psalm 9, from his album *Psalms We Sing Together*. He says this in the hymn stories section of the *Sing Hymnal*: "Psalm 9 is a song of hope. It looks to the future and sings praise to God for a deliverance that, while tasted partially in the present, is ultimately yet to come. With an eye on the unchanging character of God, the psalmist invites us to trust that God will finally set the world right, bringing justice and salvation to those who are currently oppressed."

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Before the Throne of God Above: Words: Charitie Lees Smith, 1863; alt. Vikki Cook Music: Vikki Cook © 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship (Integrity Music / [www.integratedrights.com](http://www.integratedrights.com))

And Can it Be: Words: Charles Wesley, 1738 Music: Thomas Campbell, 1825; harm. Song Companion to the Scriptures, 1911