



First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

September 18, 2022

CCLI License #399806

Worship

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Mrs. Carol Hinson

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Kyle Sims

ENTERING WORSHIP

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 66:1-4

¹Shout for joy to God, all the earth; ²sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! ³Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. ⁴All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name."

Selah

***Song of Praise**

Red Trinity Hymnal #605

"All the Way My Savior Leads Me"

1 *All the way my Savior leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy,
who through life has been my guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell;
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well;
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.*

2 *All the way my Savior leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for ev'ry trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,*

*and my soul a-thirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see;
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!*

3 *All the way my Savior leads me -
O the fullness of his love!
perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above:
when my spirit, clothed, immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way;
this my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way!*

APPROACHING GOD

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession with 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, for ever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic** church;
The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

(tithes and offerings may be placed in the plate as you exit Worship)

***Doxology**

Red Trinity Hymnal #731

*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. Amen.*

MEANS OF GRACE

***Psalm**

Blue ARP Psalter #23B

“The LORD’S My Shepherd”

1 *The LORD’smy Shepherd, I’ll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.*

4 *A table Thou hast furnished me
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.*

2 *My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
Ev’n for His own name’s sake.*

5 *Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in GOD;s house foe evermore
My dwelling place shall be.*

3 *Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.*

Prayer for Needs

Opening the Scripture and Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Pew Bible page 841

Mark 6:14-29

Sermon

“A High Cost”

Prayer of Application

RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

***Hymn of Response**

Red Trinity Hymnal #274

“Thine Be the Glory”

1 *Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone
away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body
lay.*

2 *Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness, hymns of tri-
umph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its
sting. [Refrain]*

Refrain:

*Thine be the glory, risen conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

3 *No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of
life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, thro' thy
deathless love;
bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above.
[Refrain]*

***Free Offer of the Gospel**

***Benediction**

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

LEAVING WORSHIP

Congregational Response

*May the peace of God our heav'nly Father, and the grace of Christ the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God the Spirit keep our hearts and minds within His love,
And to Him be praise for His glorious reign. From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain, Christ Eternal, the King of Kings.*

“Benediction”

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

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Prayer Guide

September 18

Greta Cureton- Oncology follow up, Patricia Gardner- Recovery from gall bladder surgery, Gene Hunter- Follow up after fall, Paul Robinson- Kidney failure, Florence Cranney- Recovery from brain surgery, Sr. High retreat September 23-25

September 11

Family and friends of Natalie Carmichael, Paul Blas- Improvement after wreck, Tracy & Debbie Hardin- Covid, Gus Grau (Ghent family friend)-Hospice, Those participating in the 9/11 stair climb

September 4

Neal McKinney (Son of Joyce and Charlie Edgar)- critical condition after surgery, Buddy Lever- Oxygen use, Logan Leaphart- Continued recovery, Family of Rodney Cunningham, Kimberly Hefner- Back injury

Chronic Illnesses

James Deese, Buddy Lever, Tanya McCree, Nancy Wonderlich

Nursing Home/ Shut Ins

Kenny Caskey, Virginia Fleming, Sally Lloyd, Pat McEachern, Charles Montgomery, Clara Nell Robinson, Richard Robinson

Missionaries

Phil Baer, Rebekah Carson, Mark & Natalie Witte

Church Planters

King's Church (Columbia), Arsenal Hill (Columbia), Potential church plant in Indian Land

Military

Spencer Estrada (USN), Alex Coale (USMC), Dillon Coale (USN), Remington Totten (USN), Nick Lee (USA)

Financials

September 11, 2022	
Morning attendance	45/6
Evening attendance	38/1
General Fund	\$2,085
Total GF contributions this month	\$4,406
Care Fund	\$20

General Fund	August	YTD
Contributions	\$16,344	\$163,197
Expenditures	\$23,565	\$165,438
Difference	(\$7,221)	(\$2,241)
Care Fund		
Contributions	\$0	\$389
Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Missions Support		
Contributions	\$505	\$6,854
Expenditures	\$1380	\$11,047
Memorial Fund		
Contributions	\$0	\$1,205
Expenditures	\$0	\$0

AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTION It is a serious commitment to set up your tithe to be given every month, but we are called to give from our first fruits. Are you ready to take a step of faith? Would you like to make sure you support the financial needs of the church even when you can't be here in person? Visit our website at FirstARPLancaster.org/Giving to make a one time or repeating contribution. Contact the church office with any questions.

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
28 MISSIONS 	29 	30 	31 6:00 Wednesday Family Night
4 	5 	6 	7 6:00 Wednesday Family Night
11 4:00 Diaconate	12 	13 	14 6:00 Wednesday Family Night 7:30 Choir
18 7:30 Session	19 	20 6:30 AE Circle	21 6:00 Wednesday Family Night
25 MISSIONS Sr. High Retreat	26 	27 	29 6:00 Wednesday Family Night

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3
8 3:00 JL Circle	9	10
15	16	17 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast
22	23 Sr. High Retreat →	24
29	30 Congregational Retreat → Young Adult Retreat →	1

ANNIVERSARIES

15- David & Pat McEachern
 16- Lathan & Holly Rivers
 28- JB & Katey Powell

BIRTHDAYS

1- Robin Dawson
 4- Aaron Morrison
 7- Kay Cauthen
 8- David Pokopac
 13- Elizabeth Sims
 15- Keith Jaillette
 15- David O'Brien
 16- Debbie Dickson
 17- Colin Adams
 18- Jean Hollis
 19- Phillip Deese
 22- JB Powell
 24- Butch Ghent
 30- Katey Powell

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 Worship
11:15 Sunday School (Adult Fellowship, Men's & Women's Bible Study, and Youth/ Young Adult)
6:00 Worship
7:00 Youth/ Fellowship

Announcements

WELCOME VISITORS Welcome to First ARP Church. If you are a first time visitor, we would like to have a record of your visit with us. Please fill out an attendance card located in the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate as you exit the Sanctuary.

IN REMEMBRANCE Flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today to the glory of God and in memory of Sarah Baer by Phil & Marilyn Baer and Michele Baer.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS Discipleship Committee will meet at 12:00PM TODAY following Sunday School. Outreach Committee will meet Tuesday, September 20 at 7PM.

CATAWBA WOMEN'S MINISTRIES The annual meeting for CWM will be held Saturday, October 15 at Unity ARP Church. The cost is \$8 and the signup deadline is September 30. This year's theme is "Christ's Call To Unity". The event begins at 9AM with breakfast provided by First ARP Lancaster. Guest speaker Robin Young, Executive Director for Life Builders ESL in Rock Hill, will lead two sessions and you will be able to participate in two workshops. Lunch is also provided. The meeting will end at 2:30PM. Registration information and event details are available on the Women's Ministries bulletin board in front of the church office.

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT This year we have different groups preparing meals for our Wednesday Family Night, so **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU REGISTER BY SUNDAY EVENING** so we can give a head count to that week's cooks. If for any reason you have registered and cannot attend, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

At the moment we will continue to charge \$3 per person or \$10 per family, but as food costs rise, this may be reviewed in the following weeks. Registration is available on the Church events bulletin board for the next meal, or on our website <https://www.firstarplancaster.org/wednesday-family-night> for several weeks in advance.

CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT Registration forms for our annual Congregational Retreat are now available at the side entrance of the church. Forms and money are due by Sunday, **September 25**. Remember to also complete the online waiver before turning in your registration form: <https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/e/4cMaGhFWdM4T76GrVersoC/> .

MEN'S BOOK STUDY Thursday mornings Men's book study is starting back. We will be reading Andrew Randall's *Following Jesus*. We will begin meeting Thursday, Sept 8 @ 6:30 am

and 10:00 am here at the church. Contact Pastor Kyle if you have not already signed up for one of these groups.

HOPE DONATIONS For the month of August, HOPE requests the following items for its food pantry: Canned Corn, Grits, Fruit Juice, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Stuffing Mix, Canned Fruit, and Spaghetti Sauce.

Please do not give family size containers or glass jars. Donations can be placed on the shelves near the Fellowship Hall.

ADDRESSES Here are addresses for our college students and recent graduates.

Catherine Mattevi- 331 Braeburn Dr., Anderson SC 29621

Kaitlin Mohr/ Kandace Mohr- 176 Hatchway Rd., Fort Mill SC 29707

Sam Ogburn- Box 2592, 102 W. Wilson St., Wingate NC 28174

Katelyn Prete- 710 Parkaire Ln., #519, Charlotte NC 28217

Elizabeth Sims/ Peter Sims- 12B Depot St., Due West SC 29639

Elise Tindal- 705 Marion Sims Dr., Lancaster SC 29720

Emily Tindal- 735 University Ave., Sewanee TN 37383

COMMITTEES and CHAIRMEN

Administration Clerk - Buddy Lever	Fellowship- Ed Ogburn
Discipleship- Michael Cauthen	Missions- David Pokopac
Outreach- Richard Crawford	Worship- Frank Brackett
Internal Needs -Suzanne Lever	Safety -Walt Watford
Building-Sam Prete	Grounds- Keith Jaillette

Fighting Over Prayer

“District won't allow prayers over PA” was the headline article in our local paper. At odds were the school district administration and a state legislator over whether the school district could allow ministers to have prayer before a football game over the official Public Address system. This conflict spilled over onto social media. Many see it as an attack against freedom of religion, while others argue the First Amendment anti-establishment clause.

Many of us grew up with this invocation being a regular part of the pre-game ceremonies. In recent years, I have seen this done before games at state universities such as Clemson and the University of South Carolina. Our school district stopped this practice in 2003 when the US Supreme Court upheld a legal challenge to the practice of official prayers at public school sporting events over the Public Address System. As you can imagine, there have been some strong opinions about this issue.

I do have sympathy that the state should support the one true religion, and for many years Christ was honored because the nation was predominantly Christian. However, this is not the case anymore. We as a nation should recognize Jesus as King, yet our motto, “One Nation Under God,” is a far cry from recognizing Jesus as the head of our nation. In spite of the multitudes of blessings the Lord has poured out on our nation we continually snub our nose and refuse to give honor to Jesus.

My first concern over this practice of public prayers revolves around who would be allowed to pray. Many opposed to these public prayers state that continuing to allow them would mean non-Christians, such as Muslims, Jews, and even Satanic groups, might be included in the rotation of those praying. While this is an obvious problem, I am just as concerned about those coming to offer prayer who identify as Christian in name only. There is a major difference between the prayer of a Bible-believing Presbyterian, Baptist, or Non-Denominational pastor and prayers of liberal mainline pastors who attack the veracity of the Bible and preach a different gospel from orthodox Christianity. What message does this send to the world about Christ?

Another issue is with the prayers themselves. We have all heard these prayers. A ministerial colleague calls these “performance prayers.” They are more civic than religious in many

cases, giving good thoughts and vibes before the game or event. Some are just silly. Many may remember the pastor praying thanks to God for his “smoking hot wife” before a NASCAR race. Google it. I’m not making that up. This is just a famous example of the often bad prayers given in these situations.

Maybe the biggest concern is hypocrisy from the believing church. Again and again the lines between politics and the church are blurred. Here we see many people ready to go to battle over a fairly pointless prayer which is often dishonoring to the Lord, yet where is our zeal for God in other areas of life? If we want to pray, should there not be consistency in all of life? Should we not make worship a priority, keeping the Sabbath, and living the Christian life? I fear that too much of what is driving this issue on the pro-prayer side is a desire to hold on to the idea of American Christendom; the sentimental idea of America being about God, baseball, and apple pie. However, this was always a facade. It was never real.

I am always amazed at how many see the great fall of the church in America as the result of prayer and the Bible being taken out of School. The problem, to me, lies much closer to us than we care to admit. It is when prayer and the Bible stopped in the home that we found ourselves in trouble. Regularly professed Christian families miss church for a whole host of unnecessary reasons. Travel ball takes families out of church. Teens work unnecessary jobs on Sunday. Families lack a strong commitment to worship so that whenever anything better comes along they miss being at their church. The real battle is not over public prayer at a high school football game. It is not over trying to hold on to the fading remnants of Christendom in our society. The battle is for the hearts of Christ’s people to be serious and committed about the faith. Here is where we should be putting our efforts and calling each other to repentance and faithfulness to Christ.

Dr. Kyle E. Sims
Pastor

(This article was originally posted at <https://gentlereformation.com/2022/09/13/fighting-over-prayer/?fbclid=IwARoUyh6VyJTL4QMTLfUYlOA5xABjNLXEJFpsVHqSsK1PjobbrgM2AewMIwM>)

Sermon Notes

Childcare

	WORSHIP	SUNDAY SCHOOL
September 18	Debby Hegler Greta Cureton	Suzanne Lever Joan Watford
September 25	Susan Prete Anna Rhyne	Corinne Brackett Susan Cauthen

Officers

	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Elders	Mike Cauthen Ed Ogburn	Richard Crawford David Pokopac
Captain	Debbie Dickson	JB Powell
Co-Captain	Walt Watford	Debby Hegler

STAFF		ELDERS	DEACONS
Pastor-Dr. Kyle E. Sims	2022	Richard Crawford-VM	Debbie Dickson
Secretary-Mrs. Stacy Pokopac		David Pokopac	JB Powell
Pianist- Mrs. Carol Hinson			Walt Watford- S
Pastoral Intern- Joel Haan	2023	Frank Brackett	Debby Hegler
Evening Music- Rev. David Huffman		Buddy Lever- C	Suzanne Lever
	2024	Mike Cauthen	Sam Prete- C
		Ed Ogburn	Daniel Bohler
			Keith Jaillette- VC

An Associate Reformed Family Serving God, Lancaster, and the World

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FirstARPLancaster.org