

First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

February 5, 2023

CCLI License #399806

Worship

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Mrs. Carol Hinson

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Kyle Sims

ENTERING WORSHIP

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 103:20-22

²⁰Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! ²¹Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! ²²Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

***Song of Praise**

Red Trinity Hymnal #116

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

1 *For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,*

3 *For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight, [Refrain]*

Refrain:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

4 *For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]*

2 *For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light, [Refrain]*

5 *For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely giv'n,
graces human and divine,
flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n, [Refrain]*

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

Isaiah 43:25

²⁵I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

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 119**

Blue ARP Psalter #193

“Better Than Silver and Gold”

1 Lord, from Thy commands let me never depart;

O teach me Thy statutes, I pray;

For Thy holy word have I hid in my heart;

O teach me Thy statutes, I pray.

Refrain:

Far better than silver and gold;

Far better than riches untold;

Thy wonderful word is to me better far

Than thousands of silver and gold.

2 A light to my path and a lamp to my feet;

O teach me Thy statutes, I pray;

Thy word, precious word, to my taste, Lord,
how sweet;

O teach me Thy statutes, I pray. [Refrain]

3 Thy precepts, O Lord, have been ever my song;

O teach me Thy statutes, I pray;

Great comfort to me all my journey along;

O teach me Thy statutes, I pray. [Refrain]

4 Lord, teach me the way of Thy precepts to know;

O teach me Thy statutes, I pray;

That Thy wondrous works I to others may show;

O teach me Thy statutes, I pray. [Refrain]

Prayer for Needs

Opening the Scripture and Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Pew Bible page 844

Mark 8:31-33

Sermon

“Christ’s Mission”

Prayer of Application

RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

***Hymn of Response**

Red Trinity Hymnal #261

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

1 *What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the
Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my
soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

2 *To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I
AM,*

*while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will
sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing!*

3 *And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and
joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on!*

***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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Sermon Notes

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
29 CARE 	30 	31 	1 6:00 Wednesday Family
5 12:00 Youth Group meeting	6 	7 	8 6:00 Wednesday Family Night
12 COMMUNION 12:00 New Member's Lunch/ Souper Bowl of Caring 1:30 Diaconate	13 	14 	15 6:00 Wednesday Family Night
19 7:30 Session	20 	21 6:30 Alison Erskine Circle	22 6:00 Wednesday Family 
26 MISSIONS 	27 	28 	1 6:00 Wednesday Family

Thursday**Friday****Saturday**

2 3:00 JL Circle	3 10:00 Men's Book Study	4
9	10 10:00 Men's Book Study	11
16	17 10:00 Men's Book Study	18 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast
23 	24 10:00 Men's Book Study 	25
2 3:00 JL Circle	3 SR. HI RE-TREAT 10:00 Men's Book Study	4 SR. HI RE-TREAT

ANNIVERSARIES

20– Tom & Betty Arant

BIRTHDAYS

1– Mott Henley

1– Kaitlin Mohr

2– Sydnee Banholzer

2– Jack Estrada

7– Catherine Mattevi

9– Mary Strickland

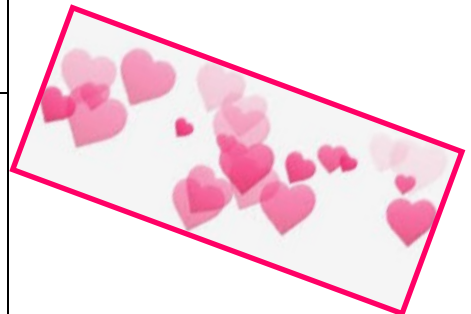
13– Rev. Roy Beckham

15– Conner Tindal

17– Danielle Deese

24– Lynn Moore

27– Ed Ogburn

SUNDAY SCHEDULE**10:00** Worship**11:15** Sunday School**6:00** Evening Worship**7:00** Fellowship/ Youth group

Prayer Guide

February 5

Phil & Marilyn Baer- Trip to Mexico, Mike Scruggs- Health, Adam Crawford- Safely home, Louise Whelan (Stacy Pokopac's grandma)- Pain/ health, Debby Hegler & Dell Ghent– Recovery from cataract surgery, David & Pat McEachern, Kathy O'Brien– Cancer

January 29

Peter Sims-ankle, Keith Birdsong (Carole Sargeant's son)- Leukemia, salvation, Dell– Cataract surgery, Hannah Powell- Wisdom teeth, Donna Robinson- Surgery, Katey Powell- Travel, Miranda Bohler- Bulging disc/ bone spurs, Jane Huffman (David Huffman's mom)- Home from hospital/ fall, Florence Cranney- Home from hospital

January 22

Christena Kaufman (Stacy Pokopac's mom)- Recovery from knee replacement, Kurt Banholzer– Uninjured after car accident, David & Eve Huffman

January 15

Pat Scruggs- Continued healing, Nancy Wonderlich- Cancer, Frank Brackett- MRI

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)

Military

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

Financials

January 29, 2023	
Morning attendance	67/1
Evening attendance	38/1
General Fund	\$4,194
Total GF contributions this month	\$29,205
Missions Fund	\$160
Care Fund	\$24

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.

Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity

One of the greatest gifts and privileges we have as Christians is the unity that we have in Christ. This means then that one of the greatest threats to the Church is disunity. These sometimes catch us by surprise because we are looking outside the Church for the attack, when we have a trojan horse already in the Church. Because of the danger of disunity, the Church must be on guard and must be fully aware of their weaknesses. We also must understand what it means to be unified as believers in Jesus Christ. Finally, we must strive for the unity and the peace of the Church. How do we do this?

1. We have unity in Christ. We must understand, acknowledge, and remember that when we are saved by God's grace, we are united to Christ. That means all who believe are united as one body in Christ together. (Eph. 1:3-14) We are united because we have the same calling, the same salvation, the same adoption, the same Savior in Jesus Christ. This means, we are spiritually connected through Jesus and are now brothers and sisters through the adoption we have in Christ. This may sound like a simple truth, and yet this is where we must begin, and this is where we must end. This is foundation of why we strive together in unity.
2. We have unity in purpose. Because we are one in Christ, we all have the same calling and purpose. (Matt. 28:18-20) This might look different from person to person, but at the foundation of who we are in Christ, we do have the same purpose in all of life. For example, Paul often refers to and calls the Church to "have the same mind". (1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 2:2) By saying this, he is saying, we are so united to Christ and therefore one to another, we are all given the same purpose, goal, and mission. We are one body, working together that the Gospel might advance, and that God would be glorified in our lives. We must not lose sight of this mission even if we differ on philosophy of ministry, the color of the carpet in the sanctuary, or whether the pastor should wear a robe or not in the pulpit. We must keep the goal of the Gospel advancing and the glory of God at the forefront of all we do as the Church.
3. We must have unity in love. One of the greatest witnesses we have for the Gospel is how we treat fellow believers. For example, I have heard it said, "why would I want to go there when they treat the people, they love like that." Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:15 when we are a part

of the Church we are to “speak the truth in love”. The love that we should have for fellow believers should be beyond our comprehension, because of the love that we have mutually received in Christ. As Jesus told His disciples, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” The way we treat and respond to one another matters and is one of the greatest testimonies and witnesses we have to the unbeliever. Do you have love for fellow believers?

4. We will be united by pursuing peace. As believers, unity is not going to come through osmosis. Trust me, disunity is more likely than unity. In fact, because we are individuals, with different thoughts, this sometimes leads to disagreements on how things can or should be done. So how do we strive for unity as individual people yet as one body? We must be vigilant and actively pursuing peace with one another. We strive for peace by being patient with one another. (Eph. 4:2) We strive for peace by building one another up. (Rom. 14:19; Eph. 4:29) We strive for peace by forgiving one another as we ourselves have been forgiven. (Eph. 4:32) We strive for peace because we have been given the gift of peace with God in Christ. Ultimately, we strive for peace and unity because we are going to dwell with one another in eternity with the Father in Heaven. Why not start now?
5. We strive together in unity because it brings glory to God. Being a good ARP I cannot mention Christian unity without mentioning Psalm 133. Whenever we sing Psalm 133 it always strikes me how positive and joyful unity should be among brothers in Christ. This Psalm is not just saying unity is good among fellow believers. Rather, it takes it a step further and is expressing how pleasant it is and how much of a blessing it is among believers. Unity then is not just what keeps us together, it is not a means to an end. Rather, Psalm 133 is telling us, unity is part of who we are as brothers and sisters in Christ. “For the Lord has commanded the blessing (of unity), life forevermore.” (Psalm 133:3)

Rev. Dean Franklin

(This article was originally published at <https://seventeen82.blogspot.com/2023/01/behold-how-good-and-pleasant-it-is-when.html?m=1>)

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.

The reverse side of these cards are for prayer requests. Anyone attending today is invited to fill out the prayer card and place it in the offering plate as you leave today's service.

GROUP MEETING There will be a meeting for all youth and parents to discuss trips to weekend retreats, Appalachia, Horizon, and Quest **TODAY**. If you have a youth or are a youth interested in participating in any of these activities, meet in the Fellowship Hall immediately following Sunday School. Lunch will be provided.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Thank you to all the ladies who give their time to provide childcare during morning Worship and Sunday School. However, we are still in need of volunteers to cover some slots during morning Worship throughout the year. If you are able to assist on any of the following Sunday's, please contact Debby Hegler or Mike Cauthen: February 5, March 19, April 30, June 11.

CHURCH DIRECTORY Our 2023 directory will be available at the New Member's Lunch February 12. If you have moved, changed your phone number, or are a regular attender, please notify the church office of your contact information by **Wednesday, February 1**.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY The registration deadline to attend the Catawba Presbytery Women's Ministries retreat is Monday, February 13. If we have enough ladies interested in attending, we have someone willing to drive the bus to Bonclarken. Pick up information on the event from the Women's Ministries bulletin board and contact Katey Powell if you would like to ride the bus. If you would like to participate in our monthly women's circles, Jean Love Circle meets on the first Thursday at 3PM and Alison Erskine Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 PM. This year, both groups are using *Revelation For You* by Tim Chester as their study book. Contact Katey Powell or Stacy Pokopac if you have questions.

HOPE DONATIONS HOPE requests the following items for its food pantry: 1 pound bag of rice, grits, canned vegetables, canned chicken, jelly, juice, peanut butter, canned peas

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 5– Youth group meeting

Feb. 8– Choir practice

Feb. 12- COMMUNION

Feb 12- New Members Lunch/ Souper Bowl of Caring- 12:00

Feb 12- Diaconate meeting- 2:00

Feb 13- WM Retreat deadline

Feb. 17- Game Night- 6:30

Feb. 18– Men’s Prayer Breakfast

Feb. 22-24– OFFICE CLOSED

Feb. 22– Choir practice

Feb. 26– MISSIONS FUND SUNDAY

COMMITTEES and CHAIRMEN

Administration Clerk - Buddy Lever

Discipleship- Michael Cauthen

Outreach– Butch Ghent

Internal Needs -Suzanne Lever

Building-Sam Prete

Fellowship- Ed Ogburn

Missions– Sam Huey

Worship- Frank Brackett

Safety -Walt Watford

Grounds- Keith Jaillette

Volunteers

CHILDCARE

WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL

OFFICERS

Elders

Captain

Co-Captain

February 5

VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED

Suzanne Lever

Lorri Crawford

FEBRUARY

Mike Cauthen

Ed Ogburn

Richard Shields

Susan Cauthen

February 12

Dell Ghent

Greta Cureton

Suzanne Lever

Lorri Crawford

MARCH

Butch Ghent

Sam Huey

Suzanne Lever

Keith Jaillette

Staff

Pastor-Dr. Kyle E. Sims

Secretary-Mrs. Stacy Pokopac

Pianist- Mrs. Carol Hinson

Pastoral Intern- Mr. Joel Haan

Evening Music- Rev. David Huffman

2023

Elders

Frank Brackett

Buddy Lever- C

2024

Mike Cauthen

Ed Ogburn

2025

Butch Ghent-VM

Sam Huey

Deacons

Debby Hegler- S

Suzanne Lever

Sam Prete- C

Daniel Bohler

Keith Jaillette- VC

Susan Cauthen

Richard Shields

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