

EPIPHANY | *Epiphany means “manifestation” or “appearance,” and we use it to speak of times when something becomes especially clear to us. In the church year, Epiphany celebrates that God made his glory and grace clear by revealing Christ to dusty shepherds, humble fishermen, dishonest tax collectors, and especially to us sinners so that we may see Christ with eyes of faith and trusting hearts.*

prelude

As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.

preparing our hearts

Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.
I am a sojourner on the earth;
hide not your commandments from me!
Your testimonies are my delight;
they are my counselors.

– Psalm 119:18-19, 24_{ESV}

** call to worship

Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All: **The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.**

Leader: They feast on the abundance of your house,

All: **And you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

Leader: For with you is the fountain of life;

All: **In your light do we see light.**

– Psalm 36:7-9_{ESV}

** Please stand if you are able

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father.
There is no shadow of turning with thee:
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be. *

** Chorus:*

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided —
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside. *

Words: Thomas Chisholm; Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan. Public Domain.

****prayer of invocation**

Leader: God of heaven and giver of life: You who breathed breath into man also now give us our every purpose and meaning. We are gathered here to thank you for our lives and our salvation, and to offer ourselves to you in humble worship and adoration. Breathe your life into us by your Spirit and by your Word that we might be renewed in our minds and conformed to the likeness of Christ, your Son. In his name we pray, Amen.

**** affirmation of faith**

Leader: What is the chief end of man?

All: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever.

Leader: What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

All: The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Leader: What do the Scriptures principally teach?

All: The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

– *Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 1, 2, 3*

BE THOU MY VISION

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought by day or by night; waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father and I thy true son; thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart; High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won. May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Dallan Forgaill, translated by Mary Byrne; Music: SLANE, Irish folk melody. Public Domain.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: [W]e do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

– Hebrews 4:15-16 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: **Almighty and most merciful Father,**
We have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;
And we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
And there is no health in us.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.
Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent
According to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Grant that we may hereafter live godly, righteous, and holy lives;
To the glory of his holy name. Amen.

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness[.]

– Psalm 130:3-4a ESV

All: **Thanks be to God!**

COME, YE SINNERS

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus, ready, stands to save you, full of pity, joined with power.
He is able, he is able; he is willing; doubt no more.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, bruised and broken by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous; sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness he requires is to feel your need of him.
This he gives you, this he gives you, 'tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended; pleads the merit of his blood.
Venture on him; venture wholly, let no other trust intrude.
None but Jesus, none but Jesus, can do helpless sinners good.

“Come Ye Sinners,” Words: Joseph Hart, Public Domain. Music: Matthew Smith.
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Leader: Psalm 19:7-11
This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.

Leader: All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,
**All: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

DAN & BECKY YOUNG

Leader: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

While your children are welcome and encouraged to worship with you, at this time they can be dismissed for an age-appropriate worship for ages 3-5.

If you would like to hear more about CPC or would like to let us know of a prayer need, please include your contact information or prayer request in the welcome pad when it comes around to you.

An elder will lead the passing of the peace. If you are joining us from your home, please unmute yourself so that you can greet one another. If you are gathered here with us today, greet one another warmly with the peace of Christ.

Series | “Romans”

Sermon | “God’s Law and the Christian”

January 7, 2024

Romans 7:7-25 ^{ESV} | 7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” 8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. 9 I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. 10 The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. 11 For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. 12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

13 Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

**** gospel charge**

Leader: In light of the Word we have heard, how ought we live?

All: [L]et us...lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

– Hebrews 12:1-2_{ESV}

WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians – a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. Once you are finished with your cup, please pass it to the inside aisles and the ushers will retrieve them.

If you have a gluten allergy, there are gluten-free wafers available in the center of the bread trays. During the celebration of communion, we will sing the printed hymn.

NOTE TO PARENTS: *To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”

– Mark 14:22-24_{ESV}

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: Let us pray.

All: O Lord and heavenly Father, when we celebrate and observe this memorial your Son has commended to us, we remember his suffering and death, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension; and we await his coming again with power and great glory. God of Mercy, hear our prayer and by your Word and Holy Spirit bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Holy Name. Amen.

Minister: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Minister: Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

All: When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
We proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come again.

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

As the elements are distributed, sing as one body, affirming that in Christ we are united to him and to one another.

WHO IS THIS SO WEAK AND HELPLESS

Who is this, so weak and helpless, child of lowly Hebrew maid,
Rudely in a stable sheltered, coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation, who this wondrous path has trod;
He is Lord from everlasting, and to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows, walking sadly life's hard way,
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping over sin and Satan's sway?
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior, who above the starry sky
Is for us a place preparing, where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold him shedding drops of blood upon the ground!
Who is this, despised, rejected, mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
'Tis our God, Who gifts and graces on His church is pouring down;
Who shall smite in holy vengeance all His foes beneath His throne.

Who is this that hangs there dying while the rude world scoffs and scorns,
Numbered with the malefactors, torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?
'Tis our God Who lives forever 'mid the shining ones on high,
In the glorious golden city, reigning everlastingly.

“Who Is This So Weak and Helpless?” Words: William How; Music: Christopher Miner.
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**** offering & song of thanksgiving**

The offering is a vital part of our response to God's grace provided for us in the preaching of his word and administration of the Lord's Supper. Our tithes and offerings represent the entirety of our lives being consecrated to the Lord Jesus Christ and the coming of his kingdom to this world. As God's grace is freely given to us, so we give freely in return; not in any way to add to Christ's supremely adequate atonement for us, but in joyful response to this work and in thanksgiving for such unmerited grace.

GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt;
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt. *

** Chorus:*

Grace, grace, God's grace; grace that will pardon and cleanse within.

Grace, grace, God's grace; grace that is greater than all our sin!

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the refuge, the mighty cross! *

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace; freely bestowed on all who believe.
You that are longing to see his face, will you this moment his grace receive? *

Words: Julia Johnston; Music: MOODY, Daniel Towner. Public Domain.

announcements

**** benediction**

**** doxology**

**All: 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.**

for first-time visitors

Whether you are visiting us from out of town or looking for a church to call home, we're so glad to have you with us. Please fill out the welcome pad when it comes to you.

sunday school

All Sunday school classes resume next **Sunday, January 14, 915a**. Adults – This winter/spring semester, our one adult class will be located in the sanctuary and have two 8-week sections. Everyone is encouraged to participate! Regular, frequent, and repeated exposure to God's Word is crucial for growing up into maturity in Christ, and the exposure and discussion that takes place in adult Sunday School partly facilitates this growth into maturity.

- ***Ecclesiastes*** – Vanity of vanities! Striving after the wind! One big question prompted by the message in Ecclesiastes is 'What are we, and what should we be, aiming at in life?' Led by Lane Joffrion, this class section will discuss Ecclesiastes and the writer's answer to this question. The class will also discuss one faithful approach to understanding Ecclesiastes' wisdom, and the major themes of wisdom in this wonderful counsel of God to us today. January 14 – March 3.
- ***Spiritual Disciplines of Growing, Godly Christians*** – Do you ever feel like Lucille Ball standing at the conveyor belt in the chocolate factory? Like life is happening WAY too fast! The goal of all spiritual discipline is to shift our focus from ourselves to God. Oh, to know and follow the admonition of Psalm 46:10 – "Be still and know that I am God." If your expressway life has you frazzled (and even if not), explore the Spiritual Disciplines with us in the second 8-week section of adult Sunday School later in the spring. Larry Lorimor will be leading this discussion, not as an expert he says, but as a fellow student. March 17 – May 12.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | JANUARY 14

The Session of CPC is calling a congregational meeting on **Sunday, January 14**, immediately following the worship service for the purpose of re-electing men to the offices of elder and deacon. We are pleased to announce that the following men were nominated by the congregation, have been trained and examined by the Session, and are eligible for election by the congregation: **Elder** – David Moore **Deacon** – Van Henry, Kevin Tanner. **Please pick up an insert in the lobby to learn more about the candidates.**

NEWCOMERS' GATHERING | JANUARY 14

The Newcomers' Gathering is an informal time set apart for those who have visited our church over the past several weeks to get to know us and one another better over some light refreshments. The pastoral staff will be there to introduce ourselves and answer questions, and hopefully the youth and children's directors can make a brief visit as well. Please join us **Sunday, January 14**, immediately following service as you are able.

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER BBQ FUNDRAISER | JANUARY 21

Please plan to attend a barbecue fundraiser benefiting the Pregnancy Help Center of Williamson County after the worship service until 2p (or until they sell out) **Sunday, January 21**, at the Georgetown Community Center located in San Gabriel Park (445 E. Morrow St.), serving Pok-e-Jo's and all the fixings! You are invited to come & go, dine-in or take it home!

new song for january

We will be singing a new song for following the confession of sins on **Sunday, January 14**, entitled "How Blest Is He Whose Trespass" (Psalm 32). The tune and lyrics can be found in the Friday newsletter email.

sign up for the chili cookoff

We need at least twelve chili chefs with crock pots, as well as others to provide salads, cornbread, desserts, and drinks for our 6th Annual Chili Cookoff on **Sunday, January 28**, following the worship service. Kellam McQuitty took home the 1st place trophy in 2023 – do you have what it takes to take home the trophy this year? Please sign up in the lobby to compete or to bring sides / drinks / desserts. The sign-up link can also be found in the weekly email newsletter. **Email Suzanne Joffrion** (hospitality@cpcgeorgetown.org) with questions.

officer nominations

Members – One of the great ways you can love CPC is by helping us identify godly men to serve our church as elders or deacons. Pick up a nomination card from the designated table in the lobby and submit your completed form to the collection box by **Sunday, January 28**. Descriptions of qualifications and responsibilities for officers of the church can be found on the same table. If you attend via Zoom, you may email your nomination (office@cpcgeorgetown.org).

intro to cpc class

We will be offering another Intro to CPC Class on **January 21 and February 4, 4-6p** in the lobby. This class is a great way to learn more about our church and the various ways you can partake and serve. This class in two sessions is also required for membership – even transferring in from other PCA churches. Each class will run around two hours and be a mixture of teaching and discussion. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers as well, and for us to share our backgrounds and testimonies. Childcare will be provided. **Contact Daniel McDowell** (daniel@cpcgeorgetown.org) to sign up or for more information.

hospitality update

For safety reasons children will no longer be able to self-serve hot chocolate. Please let them know they must ask to be served at the window. Hot chocolate will be prepared and poured out for them. Also, the Hospitality team asks that children not be allowed in the kitchen.

thank you

January marks the beginning of a new term for church officers, which means that it also marks the end of a term for some who have served faithfully and either need a break from service or have completed their three-year commitment. Please extend great gratitude to **Bryan Herron** and **Jeff Montoney** (deacons) who are rolling off active duty in January. Please also extend thanks to these men and their families for their service to the Lord's church.