

# F A I T H PRESBYTERIAN C H U R C H

### WELCOME TO FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEW? We are glad that you are worshipping with us this Sunday. Feel free to contact us at faith@faithgainesville.org to meet with the pastor or learn about other opportunities to get involved.

## Pre-Worship Meditation

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so; For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me. From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be, Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow, And soonest our best men with thee do go, Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery. Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men, And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell, And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then? One short sleep past, we wake eternally And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

John Donne

<sup>\*</sup>Please stand, but feel free to sit when needed.

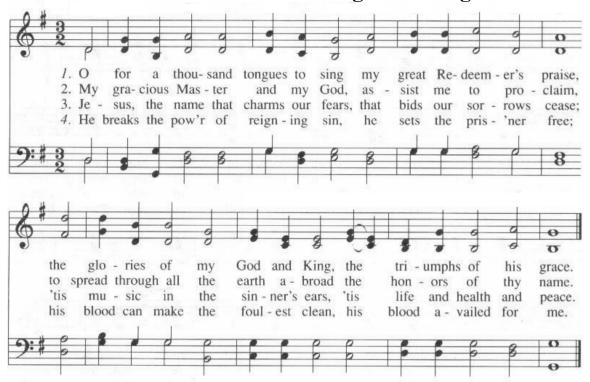
<sup>\*</sup>Children ages 4 - 2nd grade will be dismissed before the pastoral prayer (see pg. 8).



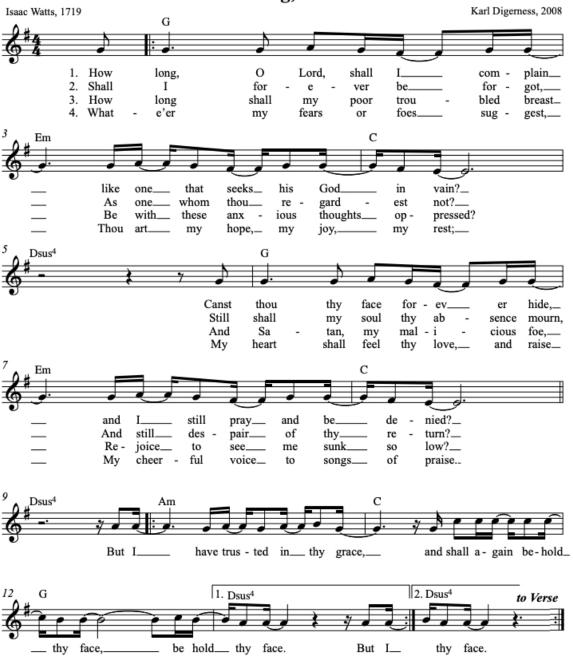
Leader: Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.

\*CALLING ON GOD AND PRAISING HIM

# O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



# How Long, O Lord



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### CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

A time of silent confession

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

# I Will Glory In My Redeemer

Words and Music by Steve & Vikki Cook



+At this time children in K4 through 2nd grade are dismissed for Children's Church.

### PRAYING FOR HIS KINGDOM AND OUR NEEDS

Chad Wolcott

**SERMON** 

Sharing in the First Resurrection

Kevin Nelson

SERMON PASSAGE Revelation 20:1-15

**20** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. <sup>2</sup> And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, <sup>3</sup> and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

<sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, <sup>10</sup> and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Takeaway: Fear of death puts pressure on us to live for ourselves. We want to get all we can out of life, through travel or experiences or accomplishments. We live as though what we make out of this life defines us. Revelation 20 seeks to expand our vision beyond this life. It is a call to share in the resurrection of Christ, and therefore, to live for something greater than life. Those who don't will face a fate worse than the first death; one that will make all of life's experiences meaningless. Which has shaped your life more: the certainty of your first death or prospect of your second death?

### **SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

- What is the good news of this passage? How does it bring hope to our brokenness and struggles?
- What are we led to believe from this passage? What doctrines, convictions, beliefs are strengthened from this passage?
- When and where do you struggle the most with the issue(s) this sermon raised?
- If you were to incorporate the teaching from this sermon and its related Scriptures into your own life, how would your life be different next week? next year?

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

### GIVING HIS TITHES AND OFFERINGS

+During the collection children will return from Children's Church.

\*Doxology

(Ken, Old Hundredth)

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.

Heidelberg Catechism, #1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: That I, with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with His precious blood has fully paid for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil, and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; moreover, that all things must work together for my salvation, and by His Holy Spirit, Christ also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready, henceforth, to live for Him.

### CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

We serve wine in the Lord's Supper, believing it to be the Biblical element used. We provide grape juice in the outer rim for those who, out of conscience or reasons of health, do not partake of wine.



\*BENEDICTION 2 John 3

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

# **GETTING CONNECTED**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Special Worship Service and Potluck with Church Planters, Wednesday May 14th: We are hosting a conference for church planters this week. Mission Anabaino is a church planting ministry that Faith supports. Planters from around the country will be here from 5/12-14. You are invited to attend the potluck dinner (6pm) and worship service (7pm) that will conclude the conference. It will be a good chance to meet these pastors and encourage them in their labors. Sign up to bring a dish for the potluck here: tinyurl.com/WednesdayPotluck

Men's Retreat: May 16<sup>th</sup> (6pm-10) <sup>-</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> (7am-11:30) at Grace Commons. A meaningful coming together of the men of the church. Guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Preston Graham, current Executive Director of Mission Anabaino and former Senior Pastor at Christ Presbyterian Church in New Haven, CT. Join us for 3 seminar sessions over the two days. Barbecue dinner will be catered on Friday night and breakfast will be provided on Saturday morning.

### Save the Date: Faith's VBS is happening June 16-20th!

We are hosting a Marvel-ous VBS where Captain Solas will lead us back in time to discover that the "heroes of faith" found in Hebrews all point us to our true Hero! There'll be food, games, music, crafts - and amazing true stories that lead our kids to Jesus Christ!

Sign up today for this event! You can register your kids or sign up to volunteer using the QR code. Drop off is at 8:45am and pick up is at 12pm each day. Limited number of spaces are available!

High school youths are invited to participate in CREDO with Pastor Cord each day of VBS beginning at noon.

Volunteer training is taking place on Friday, May 9 AND Friday, May 30th from 6:30-7:30pm; volunteers may choose to attend either date. Training is required for volunteer participation. See Teresa for details and information. See you there!



Sira Baby Bottle Campaign May 11th-June 15th Sira is a local non-profit faithbased pregnancy center. All services they provide are <u>free.</u> Your donations help the ministry continue to change lives for now and eternity. You can contribute by picking up your baby bottle. Fill your bottle with coins, cash, and checks. Or scan OR Code.

Last Sunday School of the ministry year is next Sunday, 5/18. Sunday School will resume in September 7th.

### ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

**Children's Church** is available for ages K4 through 2nd grade. Children will be dismissed after the song following the "Assurance of Forgiveness" and will return after the sermon.

Sunday School: All classes 9am.

### **Community Groups:**

- Suburban Heights, Millhopper meets Tuesday, contact jeremylscheer@gmail.com
- **Westside** meets Sunday, contact <u>ieremiahkumpf@gmail.com</u>
- **Southwest** meets Wednesday, contact <u>massimoisastia@yahoo.com</u>
- Northwest (High Springs, Alachua) meets Thursday, contact cord@faithgainesville.org

Youth Group: Resumes in September

**GradPro:** A graduate student and young professionals community, meets every month on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday at 7 pm. For more information, join our WhatsApp group with the QR code. Questions or comments? Please contact Jeremiah Kumpf: (jeremiah@faithgainesville.org).



**Empty Nesters:** Meets twice per month on the **2nd and 4th Thursday mornings from 10:30 am to 12 noon**. For more info, contact Bill Lawrence <a href="mailto:wmlawrence@cox.net">wmlawrence@cox.net</a> or 352-317-7970.

**Women's Bible Study: Tuesday mornings, May 20,** 10:00-11:30 in the Teaching Center. Childcare is provided. **Sunday mornings,** 9:00-9:45 in the Teaching Center. Both groups are using the book <u>Better: A Study of Hebrews</u> by Jen Wilkin. All women are welcome to attend either group. For more information, contact Christie Nelson or Betty Brady.



The Women's Newsletter with current information is available on the church website (tinyurl.com/WNLMay2025). You can also receive information by joining our Women's Ministry WhatsApp group chat. Scan the QR code to join.

Gainesville Community Ministries: drop off nonperishable goods in the basket in the foyer.

# **Having Trouble Hearing Our Service?**

See a greeter prior to worship to borrow a hearing device.

Giving and Attendance				
Last Week's Giving	Last Week's Budget	Fiscal YTD Giving	Fiscal YTD Budget	Last Week's Attendance
\$8,877.53	\$11,792	\$421,511	\$424,512	132



### **Prayer Requests & Faith Friday Emails**

Our office sends weekly emails with prayer requests, updates, and announcements regarding everything going on in the life of our church. If you would like to be added to either of these email lists, check out our websites "Get Connected" page or scan the QR Code to sign up.

### **OFFICE INFORMATION**

Kevin Nelson (Senior Pastor): kevin@faithgainesville.org
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Joseph Shields (Music Director): joe@faithgainesville.org
Admin Business: faith@faithgainesville.org
Betty Brady (Women's Ministry Council): jimbettybrady@bellsouth.net

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Office Hours: Mon — Thurs 9 AM - 4 PM