



First
Presbyterian
Church

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI

Prepare An Answer!

- September 3 Why Do We Have Communion? – I Cor. 11:23-29
September 10 Why Is Jesus the Only Way? – Acts 4:5-12
September 17 How Do We Know God Exists? – Jeremiah 9:23-24
September 24 Why Do We Have the Church? – Acts 2:38-47
October 15 Who Is the Holy Spirit? – John 14:16-26
October 22 Where Did the Bible Come From? – II Peter 1:16-21

Our sermon series for September and October, “Prepare an Answer!” concludes today. It has been based on the verse from I Peter 3:15 which says, “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023

11:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

The time to begin preparing for worship is no later than the sounding of the chimes.

*The congregation is invited to stand.

**Seating of those arriving after worship has begun.

CHIMING

PRELUDE

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Robert Hobby

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 99

Dr. Andrew Chaney

One: The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

All: **The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!**

One: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he! Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

All: **O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.**

**HYMN 463

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, your Word tells us to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ, but our lives are often a poor reflection of who you are. We know we are to work together to further the Gospel. Instead, we are distracted and too focused on our selfish ambitions. You call us to be a community of believers who are joined together by the joy of our salvation. Forgive us when we fail to be the body of Christ together. May we know what it is to be truly humble, to deny ourselves and to take up our cross to follow you. We ask for your mercy and peace...

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

**Laud and honor to the Father, Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, Ever three and ever one:
One in might and one in glory While unending ages run!**

PROCLAIM THE WORD

EXPRESSIONS OF FELLOWSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

♦Minutes for Stewardship

Elder Ryan Strawbridge

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Declan Roman Beattie

Annabelle Lea Beattie

A TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Deacon Susan Gregory

ANTHEM

Send Out Thy Light

Send out thy light, O send thy truth, that they may lead me, O Lord, that they lead me to thy holy hill. My soul shall trust in God the Lord, my soul shall trust in God the Lord; for I will yet give thanks to God, who is the help of my countenance, and my God. Send out thy light, O send thy truth, that they may lead me, Lord, to thy dwelling place.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

II Peter 1:16-21

SERMON

Prepare An Answer!

Dr. Andrew Chaney

5. "Where Did the Bible Come From?"

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 459

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Aria

John Dixon

*Doxology, No. 606

OLD 100TH

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.

*Prayer of Dedication and The Lord's Prayer

Elder Susan Beckham

*HYMN 462

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

*CHARGE, BENEDICTION, AND CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Recessional in C

Andre Campra

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Sunday, October 22, 2023

Administered to

**Declan Roman Beattie
and
Annabelle Lea Beattie**

Children of Josh Beattie

Christian parents have the privilege to present their children for baptism as a sign and seal of God's promise to them as heirs of the covenant. In presenting a child for baptism, parents affirm in public their duty to bring up the child to love and serve God. The congregation, too, promises to surround the child with their love and concern in Christ, that the child may continue in the community of the church, confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and live in God's eternal Kingdom.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE SACRAMENT

Dr. Andrew Chaney

THE QUESTIONS TO THE PARENT

THE QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION

Elder Richard Beattie

THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Dr. Andrew Chaney

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND PRAYER

THE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH

THE PRAYER OF BLESSING

Elder Richard Beattie

459 ' O Word of God Incarnate

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine;
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 a - mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

The opening four lines of this hymn celebrate attributes of Christ that are revealed through holy Scripture, which serves as a lantern, a chart, and a compass for the church in seeking to know Christ better. The setting of the tune comes from Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else could do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

This text is drawn from the second part of a fifty-stanza poem on the life of Christ written in 1866, during the author's recovery from a serious illness. The tune named for her first appeared three years later, and the composer was responsible for the creation of the refrain.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

WELCOME TO THIS HOUR OF WORSHIP

We hope that you will be made to feel welcome here and that you will find this service helpful to you in your Christian life. If you are a visitor, please know that we are glad for your presence here. Please help us to know you better by filling out the Friendship Register and then pass it to the person seated next to you. Take note with whom you are worshiping with and greet them warmly! Welcome one another to the Lord's House! Should you be interested in joining this congregation, please check the appropriate box on the Friendship Register and we will be in touch with you, or you may call the church office at (662) 453-4680. The Session meets periodically at 10:35 a.m. on Sunday to receive new members into our congregation.

A Nursery Is Available for children 3 years and younger in Room 103 in the Van Arnold Education Building located directly across the street from the Sanctuary.

Accessibility: Large print Bibles, hymnals, and hearing devices are available in the back of the Sanctuary. At the end of the service, please return these to the back tables.

Cell Phones and Photography: In order to maintain reverence during the service, please silence all cell phones and other communication devices and refrain from unauthorized photography or recordings.

Internet Broadcast: To watch the service live on a computer, tablet, or smart phone, go to www.firstgreenwood.net/video. Worship bulletins are available under the "Worship" tab on the website, as are archived services. You may also access the worship service live by going to the church's Facebook page.

Community Food Pantry: Please bring canned food and place it in the Food Pantry Collection Box near the handicap entrance.

Hospital Visitation: Please call the church office to let us know whether you are in the hospital or know of any church member in the hospital, since the hospital here no longer lists names of hospitalized persons on a public register. **Elder Cathy Jennings** is the visitation elder for **October**.

Ushers for Today: Brett Canterbury, Emmie Daugherty, Alan Ellis, Lawson Gary, Johnny Jennings, and Sam Pigott

Security Detail: Jacob Clark and Heston Powers, Jr.

Children's Church for 4- & 5-year-olds with Barrett and Emmie Daugherty

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, October 22, 2023

9:40 am Choristers Choir
10:00 am Sunday School
10:30 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Called Session Meeting
11:00 am Worship/Baptism
4:00 pm Church Picnic at the Melton's
711 and 801 Robert E. Lee

Wednesday October 25, 2023

12:00 pm Noon Bible Study
2:30 pm Liturgy
5:30 pm Youth Dinner
6:00 pm Youth Bible Study
6:00 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 26, 2023

6:45 am Men's Breakfast and
Bible Study

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Stephen and Ashley Farmer, and in celebration of the marriage of their son Samuel Henry Farmer and Lauren Kat Gimotty who were married here last evening. Dr. Andrew Chaney officiated.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered during worship to Declan and Annabelle Beattie, children of Josh Beattie. The assisting elder is grandfather Richard Beattie.

The flowers by the baptismal font are given to the glory of God by Richard and Christie Beattie and in celebration of the baptisms of their grandchildren, Declan and Annabelle.

Covered Entrance/Parking Lot pledge cards are available at the back of the sanctuary for anyone who did not receive one in the mail last week.

Church Picnic today at 4:00 p.m. at the Melton's homes, 711 and 801 Robert E. Lee Drive. Boat rides on the Tallahatchie River. Inflatables for children to enjoy. The church will supply fried chicken and pizza, the congregation is asked to bring food accordingly: A-J salad, K-R side, S-Z dessert. Food will be served at 5:00 p.m.

Stewardship News: You will receive a letter in the mail this week from Dr. Andrew Chaney regarding stewardship. Pledge cards and Time and Talent Surveys will be included in the mailing. Prayerfully consider how you will respond to the 2024 Stewardship Campaign. **Stewardship Dedication Sunday is November 12.**

Noon Bible Study meets Wednesday, October 25, at 12:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor. Dr. Chaney will be leading the study on Romans 3:21-26. Bring your own lunch. Coffee and water are provided by the church. Enjoy fellowship with one another from 12:00 – 12:15 p.m. at which time the Bible study will begin.

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets Thursday, October 26, at 6:45 a.m. in the Church Parlor. Dr. Chaney will be leading the study on Romans 3:21-26. All men of the church are invited to attend.

All Saints Day/Memorial Remembrance, next Sunday, October 29. We will recognize and remember all from this congregation that have entered the Church Triumphant since this time last year.

Stewardship Q & A, Sunday, November 5, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Session Room. Members of the Stewardship and Finance Committee will be present to answer any questions you may have regarding the Proposed 2024 Budget.

Welcome to the Table will be held on Sunday, November 5, at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Parlor. Children who are in the 1st grade, or older children who have not participated before, may gather around the table to learn about the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with Dr. Chaney. They will meet with the Session that morning.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Greenwood, Mississippi 38935

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Website: www.firstgreenwood.net

Email: fpcoffice@firstgreenwood.net

Senior Pastor	Dr. Andrew Chaney
Pastor Emeritus	Dr. Rusty Douglas
Director of Music & Organist	Rev. Ray Smithee
Director of Youth Ministries	Whitney Avritt
Director of Christian Education	Kelli Stainback
Kindergarten Director	Caroline Strawbridge
Financial Secretary	Annette McDonald
Custodian	Charles Covington
Custodian	Lonnie Love
Clerk of Session	Richard Oakes
Board of Deacons	Rebekah Arant
Church Treasurer	Mark Vemer
Presbyterian Women	Mary Clyde King
Endowment Committee	Mike Sturdivant III

Foreign Missionaries/Missions We Support:

Shapoor Ahmadi, Operation Promise

Liverpool, England Persian Church & Outreach Ministries

Bill Holland, Ahava Ministries

Bill and Bette Bryant Crisis Nursery, Lusaka, Zambia

Cistern Project of the Yucatan

Amos Yam, San Pablo Theological Seminary, Merida, Yucatan

Potter and Clay Ministries of Haiti,

Jordan Walker (MSU), Rebecca Gasson (Ole Miss)

Presbyterian Church of Aleppo, Turkey

Ivan Rusyn, Ukraine Evangelical Seminary

SESSION

CLASS OF 2024

Jim Bowen
Sherry Clark
Todd Fincher
Mary Haley Flautt
Pat Gullede
Cathy Jennings

CLASS OF 2025

Susan Beckham
Taylor Calhoun
Chuck Conditt
Jimmy Lott
Moss Melton
Richard Oakes

CLASS OF 2026

Dallas Baker
Alan Barger
Miller King
Reese Pillow
John Stewart III
Ryan Strawbridge

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2024

Lina Elfert
Lynn Riales
Randy Tackett

CLASS OF 2025

Rebekah Arant
Karla Bowen
Zach Luke

CLASS OF 2026

Christie Beattie
Emmie Daugherty
Sam Pigott



Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO)