



**grace**

**presbyterian**

**church**

**THE LORD'S DAY**  
**Sunday, January 23, 2022**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. David Stewart

**Prelude**

Margaret Bradly, Organ

**\*Call to Worship**

**Psalm 115: 1-3**

“Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! Why should the nations say, ‘Where is their God?’ Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.”

**\*Hymn of Praise:**

**“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

**#457**

Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace,  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander – Lord, I feel it – prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

**\*Prayer of Adoration and 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 forever. Amen.

**Call to Confession**

**Psalm 55: 1-2**

“Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy! Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and I moan....”

### **Prayer of Confession:**

O King and Father, your Son died and was raised up in power. Now enable us to die to our sin in repentance so we may rise to new life in Him. We confess to you: Lord, though you should guide us, we inform ourselves; though you should rule us, we control ourselves; though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. We think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable. Now heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your law, heal our troubled consciences with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Psalm 55:16**

“But I call to God, and the LORD will save me.”

### **\*Hymn of Preparation: “How Sweet and Awesome is the Place”**

**#469**

How sweet and awesome is the place with Christ within the doors,  
while everlasting love displays the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,  
each of us cries, with thankful tongue, “Lord, why was I a guest?”

“Why was I made to hear your voice, and enter while there’s room,  
when thousands make a wretched choice, and rather starve than come?”

‘Twas the same love that spread the feast that sweetly drew us in;  
else we had still refused to taste, and perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God, constrain the earth to come;  
send your victorious Word abroad, and bring the strangers home.

We long to see your churches full, that all the chosen race  
may, with one voice and heart and soul, sing your redeeming grace.

9 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest<sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.<sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"<sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."<sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."<sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.<sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.<sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,<sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."<sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.<sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.<sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."<sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."<sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;<sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.<sup>20</sup> And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."<sup>21</sup> And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?"<sup>22</sup> But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

1 Paul, a servant<sup>1</sup> of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, <sup>2</sup>in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began<sup>3</sup> and at the proper time manifested in his word<sup>4</sup> through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; <sup>4</sup>To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Sermon

“For the Sake of the Elect”  
Being the Church

Rev. David Stewart

I. Identity

II. Purpose

III. Blessing

**\*Hymn of Response:**

**“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”**

**#384**

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace;  
O refresh us, O refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;  
may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound;  
ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

So that when your love shall call us, Savior, from the world away,  
let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey;  
may we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.

**Benediction:**

**Titus 1:4**

**“Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.”**

**\*Three-fold Amen.**

**\*Indicates congregation will stand, if able**

## MISSIONS FESTIVAL

### February is MISSIONS MONTH!

This year we will be having a different speaker for Sunday School each week followed by a banquet Sunday evening February 27<sup>th</sup>. This will be a potluck dinner with short video reports from many of our missionaries.

### MISSIONS PROJECT FOR 2022

**(1) Recognition and support of our missionaries' children**

We have 24 children among the missionaries that we support. While the parents who are our supported missionaries receive most of the attention as it is their work, the children are often just in the background, we have decided to recognize each one with prayer and a \$50 gift card.

**(2) Support for the Native Pastors Gathering**

Ministry is difficult for most Native pastors. Suicide, domestic and gang violence, alcoholism, illicit and prescription drug abuse, and sexual abuse rank the highest among Native people groups. Resistance to the “whiteman’s gospel” is an ever-present reality. Yet too many pastors do not have any significant Biblical or theological training, nor the resources or time to go to traditional seminaries. Most are bi-vocational. Many become discouraged and burn out quickly.

The Native Pastors Gathering is an annual event at the Twin Lakes Conference Center in Florence, Mississippi, for Native pastors and their wives from the U.S. and Canada. For three days they receive rest, refreshment, and resources to better feed their flocks and grow their churches. All attendees receive solid biblical and theological study resources, including an in-depth introduction to Thirdmill’s seminary-level curriculum, which we hope many will choose to continue after the event.

Your support, offsetting the costs for the event, will build up Native pastors and strengthen Native churches by providing our missionaries opportunities to befriend, train, and partner with those on the front lines of ministry in Indian country.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We want to welcome the Gideons this morning. There will be a basket on the offering box after the service for donations. Please make checks out to "The Gideons".

### Small Group Studies!

Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. at the church

Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

01/16//22 Offering	\$ 4,629.00
YTD Offering	\$ 12,143.00
YTD Budget	\$ 10,536.00
Building Fund	\$ 20.00
Benevolence	\$ 200.00

## GRACE SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES/AGENCIES

Agape Flights – Venice, FL

Carter, Michael & Cathalain – MTW – Nagoya, Japan

Child Evangelism Fellowship – Charlotte County, FL

Dalfred, Karl & Sun – OMF International - Thailand

Grady, Miriam & son Evan – MTW – Czech Republic

Collin & Zury – RUF Global

Knaebel, Chris & Rebecca – Church Planting – Sarasota, FL

Lennox, Patrick & Regina – MTW – Native Americans

Martin, Jeremy & Angel – Serge – London, England

Pregnancy Solutions – Port Charlotte, FL

Stevens, Carla – MTW – Christian Educational Consultant

Tanner, Lucas – RUF – Florida Gulf Coast University

TWIG – Venice, FL

Young Life – Port Charlotte, FL

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