



FIRST SCOTS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Of Beaufort
——— PCA ———

THE LORD'S DAY

January 25, 2026

Sunday School: 9:30AM (all ages)
Morning Worship Service: 10:40AM
Evening Worship Service: 5PM

www.firstscotsbeaufort.org
335 Sams Point Road, Beaufort, SC 29907
admin@firstscotsbeaufort.org | (843)379-0134

Prayer of Preparation: “What Manner of Love”

By David Clarkson (adapted for use)

From *Into His Presence: Praying with the Puritans* by Tim Chester

Oh, what manner of love is this,
which makes you willing to bear with sin,
and to continue to be so tenderly
affectionate
towards those who have so frequently
committed it!

What king ever loved
an enemy to his crown?

What man ever was a friend
to the one who sought his life?

No love, but your love,
a love with no bounds and no parallel.

Your love made you willing to suffer for us.

You who with one word
caused the vast fabric of heaven and
earth
to start out of nothing,
who had heaven for your throne
and earth for your footstool,
were, in love for us, content to become a
servant,
with no cradle when you were born,
no place to lay your head while you
lived,
no monument when you died.

You whose splendor dazzled the seraphim
were, in love for us, willing to be
despised and rejected.

You in whose presence was fullness of joy,
and from whose smile spring rivers of
pleasure,
were, in love for us, willing to become a
man of sorrows.

You whose beauty was the splendor of
heaven,
the brightness of your Father’s glory,
were, in love for us, by your suffering so
disfigured
that you had no beauty to attract us.
You were, in love for us, content to bear our
sins,
to be wounded for our transgressions,
to be made a curse,
to be sold as a slave,
to die a base and cruel death.

You who were your Father’s love and
delight,
rejoicing before him from eternity,
bore, out of love for us,
the inconceivable burden of your
Father’s wrath,
which would have sunk the whole world
into hell.

Oh, what transcendent love!
What tongue can express it?
What heart can conceive it?
Heaven and earth are astonished at it.
The thoughts of men and angels are far
below it.
Oh, the height, depth, breadth and length of
your love!
Our thoughts are swallowed up in its depths,
and there they must lie until glory
elevates them, when we shall have no
other employment but to praise, and
admire, and adore your love.

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

JANUARY 25, 2026

Parents, we are delighted for your little ones to join us in worship! If they need to stretch their legs or lungs during the service, please feel free to use the Worshippers in Training (WIT) room or the nursery.

WELCOME

Rev. Alex Mark
Senior Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 34:8-10

[8]Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! [9]Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! [10]The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

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.

***OPENING HYMN:** O God beyond All Praising Trinity Hymnal #660

OLD TESTAMENT READING/CALL TO CONFESSION: ISAIAH 55:6-9

[6]“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; [7]let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. [8]For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. [9]For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: JOHN 6:37

“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”

VOWS OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?

2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Questions For the Parents

Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do your own?

Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Question For the Congregation:

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING:

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:** 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Trinity Hymnal #679

SERMON:

"LAW AND GOSPEL"
John 14:19-24

Rev. Alex Mark

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING:** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Trinity Hymnal #252

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:** The Sands of Time Are Sinking, #546, Stanza 3

*O Christ, he is the fountain, the deep sweet well of love!
The streams on earth I've tasted more deep I'll drink above:
there to an ocean fulness his mercy doth expand,
and glory, glory dwelleth in Emmanuel's land.*

**Congregation Standing*

MORNING SERMON TEXT

[14]“Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. [20]In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. [21]Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” [22]Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” [23]Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. [24]Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.”—John 14:19-24

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

I. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAW & GOSPEL

II. GOD’S PURPOSE OF COMMUNION WITH HIS PEOPLE

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES (CONT'D)

III. A HOLY PEOPLE

The Indwelling of the Father and the Son

(a devotional on John 14:21-24 from www.ligonier.org)

“There is nothing to which we are more prone than to . . . love something else than Christ under the name of Christ.” That thought from John Calvin’s commentary on John should resonate with every Christian. All too often, we think that we have been loving the Christ of the Bible only to find out we have been loving the Christ of our imagination. We tend to define the lordship of Christ according to what we want and not what He has revealed.

We are not the first disciples of Jesus who have had this problem. Our Lord knew that it would be an issue for His first disciples and for every generation that would follow them. The words found in today’s passage that Jesus spoke to His first disciples, therefore, are for us just as much as they were for them. He states again that following Him and loving Him go hand in hand. Those who have and keep His commandments are those who truly love Him (John 14:21). To have the commandments of Jesus is not merely to possess the Scriptures but to seek to make these commandments part of ourselves. Lovers of Christ reflect deeply on His commands and endeavor to obey Him in the power of the Spirit.

What happens to those who keep Christ’s commandments? They will be loved by the Father and the Son (v. 21). The love of the Father is inseparable from the love of the Son, such that when we love the Son, we love the Father; and when the Son loves us, the Father loves us as well. Father and Son come to make Their home with us when we keep Christ’s commands because our obedience demonstrates that we love Them and that we welcome Their presence (v. 23). Again we must note that our Savior does not mean that we merit the Father and Son’s dwelling with us and Their love by our obedience. After all, God takes the initiative in sending His Son and His Spirit in order to make us His children (3:3, 16). Jesus is speaking of the ongoing reciprocal relationship between God and His people. He loves them and gives them the Spirit so that they can obey (14:15–17) and they love Him and demonstrate that love by living according to His law—not perfectly on this side of glory but in an ever more consistent manner over time.

In addition to loving those who keep the commandments of Christ, the Son also manifests Himself to those who love and obey Him (v. 21). Here we have an allusion to the relationship between our ethics and our understanding of Christ. The more we seek to obey our Savior, the better we will know Him.

Calvin also comments on today’s passage that “the fruit of piety is progress in the knowledge of Christ.” Personal holiness is an important component of understanding the Word of God. If we are not seeking to grow in conformity to Christ, we should not expect to grow in the deeper things of God. Let us keep the commandments of Christ today so that we will know Him more and more.

THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

January 25, 2026

Hymn Sing

Rev. Alex Mark
Senior Pastor

Call to Worship

Isaiah 40:28-31

[28]Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. [29]He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. [30]Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; [31]but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

**Opening Hymn:*

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

Trinity Hymnal #119

Scripture Reading:

Acts 1:15-26

Evening Prayer

***Scripture Reading & Sermon: “THE HELPER: LESSONS
IN BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD”
Genesis 2:18-25***

Rev. Alex Mark

**Closing Hymn*

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Trinity Hymnal #32

**Benediction*

**Congregation Standing*

GENESIS 2:18-25

[18]Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” [19]Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. [20]The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. [21]So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. [22]And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. [23]Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” [24]Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. [25]And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

EVENING SERMON NOTES

EVENING SERMON NOTES (CONT'D)

Taken Out of Man

(a devotional of Genesis 2:21-23 from www.ligonier.org)

Even though the Lord declared His creation to be “very good” at the end of His work on the sixth day (Gen. 1:31), chapter 2 of the book of Genesis reveals to us that at one point before God was finished, complete goodness was lacking. The first man ever created was placed in a garden where he was provided with everything he needed for life. Everything, that is, except a fit helper. Although many other creatures were made by the Lord’s good pleasure, none of them was suitable to be Adam’s companion (2:18–21).

As we noted on Friday, man was not designed to accomplish dominion over creation for God’s glory by himself; therefore, God fulfilled his need for a helper. In the creation of woman, God provided man with such a helper — a being who is his kin spiritually, physically, socially, and intellectually.

Eve is taken from the side of Adam (v. 21), indicating that women are equal to men in dignity and importance. When Adam joyfully received her and called her “flesh of my flesh” (v. 23), he meant that whatever he is, she is as well. She too bears the image of God (1:27) and mirrors the glory of her Lord.

While men and women both bear God’s image, however, this does not mean our ways are exactly the same. An honest look at the differences between men and women reveals, generally speaking, that men act out certain characteristics of God more than women do, and women act out certain other characteristics of God more than men do. We bear His image equally, albeit in complementary ways.

Moreover, while men and women are equal in dignity, this does not mean they have the same roles. Adam exercised leadership over the animals by naming them, and he does the same with Eve by naming her (2:23). Within the context of the family and the church, men bear the responsibility of godly, loving leadership, while women have the duty of honorable, caring submission (Eph. 5:22–33). But this should not alarm us, for just as we see both equality and subordination among the persons of the Trinity (John 1:1; 5:19), so too do we see it in the human race that bears His image.

What is your opinion of the opposite sex? If you are a man, do you display a chauvinistic attitude in the way you talk to, or talk about, women? If you are a woman, do you dismiss men as oafish? Perhaps, whether you are male or female, you dishonor the other sex as made in the image of God by being overtly concerned with their physical appearance and not the qualities of their heart. If you have offended another in any of these ways, go and seek forgiveness.

The Beginning of Marriage

(a devotional on Genesis 2:18-25 from www.ligonier.org)

In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul gives us much teaching on marriage and married life. However, this is not the only place in Scripture where we read about the marriage relationship. Given the importance of marriage to human society and the confusion regarding marriage in our own day, it is vital that we understand what the Bible as a whole says about matrimony. To help us do that, we will now pause our study of 1 Corinthians to look at some of the other key biblical teachings on the marriage covenant. Dr. R.C. Sproul's teaching series *Christian Marriage* will be our guide.

Key for understanding marriage is understanding it in the original framework wherein it was given. Marriage is not some late addition to human culture; rather, we find it at the very beginning of history. Today's passage describes the creation of Eve and the ensuing institution of marriage. Importantly, the Lord created marriage before He entered into a covenant to save His people. Consequently, marriage does not come to us as a unique part of the Lord's saving relationship with men and women. Instead, marriage exists as a gift to all people. It was ordained in creation before the fall, and so it is essential for healthy human societies as long as the present order endures. A marriage does not have to be conducted in a church or under the watch of a priest or minister to be valid. It requires only the joining of the appropriate partners in the context of public covenantal declaration. Marriages presided over by non-Christian clergy or even secular officials are therefore valid.

As noted, marriage requires the joining of appropriate partners. Both Genesis 1:26–27 and 2:18–25 show that the appropriate partners in a marriage are one man and one woman. God created man male and female in His image, sexual complements who together fulfill the mandate to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth (1:28). Any so-called marriage that does not consist of the joining of the two different but complementary sexes is therefore not a valid marriage. This should go without saying, but there is strong cultural pressure to accept other partnerships as valid marriages. Such partnerships are not and cannot be valid marriages in the eyes of God.

God, as a relational being Himself—three persons in one essence—created His image bearers for relationship. Marriage is one of the key relationships in which our relational nature is expressed.

Many of the problems confronting marriage in our day are related to a poor understanding of the origin of marriage. As a relationship divinely instituted in creation, marriage is nothing to take lightly or to redefine as we please. Christians must be courageous witnesses to this, refusing to bow the knee to cultural redefinitions of marriage.