

ORDINARY TIME Brookhaven Presbyterian Church / September 14



# What is the chief end of man?

The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.  
-Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 1

## What do we do when we go to church?

We come to church to experience God in a way we are not able to individually. When we gather to worship God at church, the body of Christ collectively experiences and gives worship to the God of the universe. We do this by hearing directly from God reading Scripture, speaking to Him by praying, worshiping Him by singing songs, receiving His love and grace through celebrating the Lord's Supper, and learning about Him by hearing the Word of God interpreted through the sermon. We may or may not feel anything different here, but we believe that whatever it is that we experience when we are at church is the closest thing we have to experiencing an encounter with the living God. We're glad you're joining us.

## *Seek First*

"But seek first the kingdom of  
God and his righteousness, and all  
these things will be added to you."

*Matthew 6: 33*

Peace that passes, my understanding  
Love that conquers, my fear and regret  
Joy unending, eternal pleasure  
In your presence, my risen king

### **Chorus:**

*I will seek first, Your kingdom*

*I will seek first, Your righteousness*

*Everything I need, You will provide for me*

*My heart is to seek first, Your kingdom*

Peace that passes, my understanding  
Love that conquers, my fear and regret  
Joy unending, eternal pleasure  
In your presence, my risen king

### **Chorus**

You're what I really want  
You're all I really need  
Father every breath I've got  
You have given it to me

### **Chorus**

## *Call To Worship*

*Isaiah 12: 2-4*

"Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the Lord God is my strength and my  
might;  
he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.  
And you will say in that day:  
Give thanks to the Lord,  
call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the  
nations;"

## *Where Would I Go?*

"Simon Peter answered him, "Lord,  
to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of eternal life,"

*John 6: 68*

There's a tension  
Between the spirit  
And the flesh

There are questions  
Without answers  
Weakness without rest

There are times when  
There's no words,  
Just a cry

There are seasons  
Without reasons  
Nobody knows why

I could bury the mystery  
I could run from the feeling

### **Chorus:**

*Where would I go?*

*What would I do?*

*I don't need to know*

*I just want to walk with You*

*Wherever You are,*

*Wherever You lead*

*I don't need to know*

*I just want to walk with You*

In the tension  
Give me the wisdom  
To wait for your release

In the questions  
Help me to listen  
To your voice of peace

In every division  
Give me a vision  
Of heaven colliding with earth

In my darkest seasons  
You are still speaking  
Your kindness always calls me home

I could bury the mystery  
I could run from the feeling

### **Chorus**

## *Worthy Of It All*

"For from him and through him  
and to him are all things. To him  
be glory forever. Amen."

*Romans 11: 36*

In my heart  
Come build Your altar  
I will remember all You have done

### **Chorus**

All the saints and angels  
Bow before your throne.  
All the elders cast  
Their crowns before the lamb  
Of God and sing.

### **Chorus:**

*You're worthy of it all  
You're worthy of it all  
For from You are all things  
And to You are all things  
You deserve the glory*

All the saints and angels  
Bow before your throne.  
All the elders cast  
Their crowns before the lamb  
Of God and sing.

### **Chorus**

Day and night, night and day  
Let incense arise  
Day and night, night and day  
Let incense arise

### **Chorus**

# Welcome & Announcements

## Get Connected

The following are opportunities to connect with others in the church. If you are interested in more information, please email Beth Goss ([beth.goss@brookhavenpres.com](mailto:beth.goss@brookhavenpres.com)).

**Community Groups:** Monthly gatherings for dinner and relational connection.

**Cohorts:** Groups that meet bi-monthly for the sake of exploring or growing in areas of similar interests or life circumstances.

**Discipleship Groups:** Small groups in which people are growing in their knowledge of Jesus in the context of meaningful community.

**Leadership:** The mechanism in which we are encouraging our people to invest in others as Christ has invested in us. For more information on the various leadership teams, please go to the BPC website ([www.brookhavenpres.com/leadership](http://www.brookhavenpres.com/leadership)).



# Congregational Prayer

## *Lord's Prayer*

Our Father 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,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.  
For yours is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory, forever.

**Amen.**

*Matthew 6: 9-13*

*Children of all ages are welcome in  
the service at all times. Anyone going  
to class may do so now.*

## Sermon

### *Galatians 1: 1-5*

**1** Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— **2** and all the brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

**3** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **4** who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, **5** to whom be the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.

### *Galatians 4: 1-7*

**1** I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, **2** but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. **3** In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. **4** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” **7** So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

# Lord's Supper

For Christians, the Lord's Supper is the most sacred thing we do all week. We believe as Presbyterians that though the bread and wine do not become the physical body and blood, nevertheless something mysterious and spiritual happens when we eat and drink by faith, so that we are spiritually nourished and our union with Christ and one another is signified and sealed. For that reason, anyone who is not a Christian and does not see this as sacramental may feel free to abstain, as we do not want to force you to do something with your body that is inconsistent with your heart. However, the Heidelberg Confession says that for those who are displeased with themselves because of their sins, and yet trust that these are forgiven them, the Supper may help remind them that their weakness and sin is covered by the suffering and death of Christ. If you think your child is ready to go through confirmation and receive communion, please contact Blythe.

For anyone that may find it easier to remain seated during communion, single-use communion cups are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to ask any BPC member for assistance.

## *Apostles Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our  
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius  
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he  
descended into hell. On the third day he rose  
again; he ascended into heaven. He is seated at  
the right hand of the Father, and he will come  
to judge the living and the dead. I believe in  
the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the  
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life  
everlasting.  
**Amen.**



## *A Liturgy for Communion*

### **Isaiah 55: 1-3, 6-7**

#### **Leader:**

Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

#### **All:**

Why do you spend your money for that  
which is not bread,  
And your labor for that  
which does not satisfy?

#### **Leader:**

Listen diligently to me, says the Lord,  
and eat what is good,  
And delight yourself in the richest of food.

#### **All:**

Incline your ear, and come to me;  
Hear, that your soul may live;  
And I will make with  
you an everlasting covenant,  
My steadfast, sure love.

#### **Leader:**

Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near.

#### **All:**

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.

## *Prayer and Reflection*

We encourage you to use the time before and after you receive communion to be still with God. For each of us this may look different, but you can use this time to read back over the scripture, reflect on God's love and forgiveness for you, sing along with the song or pray through the following prompts:

-For God to give you deep rest in Him.

-For God to give you a hunger to know and be with Him.

-For God to show you how He wants you to respond to anything from the service today that convicted, encouraged, or compelled you to action.

-For anyone in your life who may be struggling.

## *Offering*

An offering basket is located on the left of the stage as an opportunity to give back to God. You may also donate online through Church Center.

## **Communion Song**

### *My Jesus I Love Thee*

"We love because he first loved us."

*1st John 4: 19*

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine  
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love Thee because Thou has first loved me,  
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.  
I love Thee for wearing  
the thorns on Thy brow;  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering  
crown on my brow;  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

## *Be Thou My Vision*

Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart  
Nought 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, Thou my true word  
I ever with Thee, 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, after 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.

## **Benediction**

*Psalm*  
*145: 8-9*

**8** The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich in love. **9** He is good to  
all, and his mercy is over all that he  
has made.

## **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
**Amen.**

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Staff Reflection:  
Macy Starkes

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Foster Care:  
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Connect With Us: If you would like prayer for something specific, are new to the church, or would like to meet with a church leader, please text your information to 770-241-8131 or scan the QR code to fill out the contact card.

# UPCOMING DATES:

**Sun 9/14:** Working Moms Dinner at 7:00pm (*BPC - Gathering Space*)

**Sun 9/21:** Foster Care: Care Community Volunteer Orientation at 4:00pm (*BPC - Room 204*)

**Sat 9/27:** Membership Class 2 at 9:00am (*BPC - Room 204*)

**Sun 9/28:** Newcomers Lunch at 11:30am (*BPC - Room 204*)

*Please go to the BPC website or app to find out more details about the events above.*

# HEAD LINES

## 1) BPC Directory

We announced in the spring that the long-awaited church directory is here through Church Center, our new church management software. Many of you have joined the directory and added pictures; thank you! If you are a member or regular attender, several months ago, you should have received an email from Church Center with an invitation to join the directory. If you did not receive that email or need it to be re-sent, please email Beth ([beth.goss@brookhavenpres.com](mailto:beth.goss@brookhavenpres.com))

Once you accept the invitation, you can choose what information you would like to share in the directory for yourself and for your household. **Even if you do not want to share any contact information, PLEASE upload a photo.** You have the option to add both a photo of yourself and of your household. If you have any issues with uploading a picture, it may be that the resolution is too high and you may need to try using another picture.

## 2) Diaconal Updates

God is at work through many diaconal ministries in our church – keep an eye on this space for both requests and updates/praises.

**Presencia:** The school supplies bank is STOCKED. This was a simple but meaningful way to show Christ's love with material means. Deep thanks to all who contributed tangibly and with prayers.

**Foster Care:** The parsonage is occupied! Our foster family has moved in. We have one care team currently serving a fostering family in our church, with two more care teams in the process of forming. Pray these teams bring blessing and that God equips volunteers for each family's needs.

**Congregational Care:** Pray for Audrey Weeks' continued health; for the Jordan family in Sally's treatment; and for those in our church facing dementia, anxiety, chronic migraines, or grieving miscarriage.

**BPC Housing:** This summer's 12-week Financial Literacy Workshop was a success, with three participants completing the program. One highlight: this workshop graduated someone who will be living in the duplex this year as well as created a connection yielding gainful employment as well. Not planned by us, but certainly by the Holy Spirit. Prayer Requests: Please pray for the duplex renovations to be completed, the growth of the BPC housing team to support them, and for all participants as they begin putting their financial goals into practice.

# HEAD LINES

## 3) Staff Reflection: Waiting by Macy Starkes

Something I've come to realize the longer I walk with the Lord is that the Christian life is deeply marked by waiting. As humans, especially in 2025, waiting isn't something we enjoy, nor is it something we're often forced to practice. We can get almost any answer instantly from ChatGPT. We can order nearly anything from Amazon and have it on our doorstep the next day. We can reach anyone in seconds with a text or call. Our world has been designed to erase waiting. But if we believe in a God who calls us to live in the tension of the "already" and the "not yet," then waiting is unavoidable. Our true home is not here, which means part of following Him will always involve waiting. The psalmist in Psalm 130 speaks directly into this reality:

5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;

6 my soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.

I'd love to say that when I wait, I always wait expectantly and with hope in what the Lord will do. But more often than not, I wait anxiously, struggling to trust that He is not only working and moving, but that He is also doing it all for my good. A great friend of mine, Kelly King, recently reminded me of what surrender in the waiting can look like. She shared that surrender isn't usually a one-time prayer we pray and move on from, it's often a moment by moment, hour by hour cry to God in the midst of waiting. It's an act of reflection and remembrance that I am not in control and that I cannot see the whole picture. And even though my instinct is to tightly grip every detail of my life, true freedom and peace come when I release that grip and choose to trust in God's goodness despite my circumstances.

May your soul find hope in His word today as you wait.

# HEAD LINES

## 4) Foster Care: Care Team Training

We have recently shared a good bit about the foster home on our church property, but we also want to make our congregation aware of another opportunity that we have to support families in our congregation who are currently fostering. Each family who is fostering has a care team that provides ongoing tangible support (meals, household tasks, babysitting, help with tutoring/transportation, prayer, etc.). If you would like to hear more on what that looks like and how you might be able to support a fostering family in our church, we are having a Care Community Volunteer Orientation at the church on Sunday, September 21st from 4:00-6:00pm. If you plan to attend, please RSVP on the BPC app or website. Childcare will be provided via RSVP.