

SERMON NOTES

“Behold the Lamb of God”

John 1:19-34 | Dr. Neil C. Stewart

WORSHIP AT FIRST

- ☞ Thank you for turning off cell phones during the worship service.
- ☞ The Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask deacons for a receiver.
- ☞ Nurseries for children to the age of four are provided in the Education Building.
- ☞ A quiet room with a live video feed of the service is available in the Education Building, Room 113. There, mothers may attend to the needs of their children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ☞ The February concert in our First Friday series will be an evening concert presenting Mozart’s *Clarinet Concerto* and *Symphony No. 34*. First Presbyterian Church’s own Joseph Eller will be the featured soloist, alongside an orchestra of local musicians under the direction of Dr. Daniel Cole on Friday, February 2, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- ☞ On Thursday, February 8, at 6:00 p.m., we will have our annual Men’s Wild Game Supper in the Family Life Center. Our speaker will be Dr. Neil Stewart. A variety of meats and accompaniments will be served. Please register on the church website or app by February 1. Cost is \$15.00.

For more information on upcoming events,
please visit the church website.

PASTORAL STAFF

DR. NEIL C. STEWART, SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Bryan Bult, Associate Minister to Seniors
Rev. David Henderson, Associate Minister of Discipleship
Rev. Sean Henderson, Associate Minister of Missions
Rev. David Lauten, Senior Associate Minister of Congregational Care
Rev. Josh Squires, Associate Minister of Counseling

MINISTRY STAFF

Janet Altman, Seniors Ministry Coordinator
Marie Louise Bowers, Director of Women’s Ministry
Sarah Bryan, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry
Lelia Byars, Assistant Director of Women’s Ministry
Nate Cesky, Director of College Ministry
Daniel Cole, Director of Music Ministry
Barbara Diller, Congregational Nurse
Holly Edwards, Missions Ministry Coordinator
Josh Fleming, Director of Young Professionals Ministry
Liz Grooms, Assistant Director of College Ministry
Beth Ann Hurst, Special Needs Ministry Coordinator
Hannah Lampman, Director of Children’s Ministry
Brad Martin, Director of Finance and Operations
Maggie Pelton, Assistant Director of College Ministry
Billy Pierce, Director of Youth Ministry
Roxanna Rojas, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry
Thomas Russell, Organist and Assistant Director of Music Ministry
Richard Wolford, Executive Chef
Joseph Yi, Director of Sports Ministry

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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
EST. 1795



LORD’S DAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

“IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, TO SING PRAISES TO YOUR NAME,
O MOST HIGH; TO DECLARE YOUR STEADFAST LOVE IN THE
MORNING, AND YOUR FAITHFULNESS BY NIGHT.”

(PSALM 92:1,2)

WELCOME

We extend our cordial greetings to all who are visiting us today and hope that you will join us again for worship. We ask our guests to sign the Friendship Register along with members of the congregation and to give us an address so that we may send you information about First Presbyterian Church.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane T. Davidson by Brandon, Eliza Madison, and Alexander Shives.

1324 MARION STREET, 29201

DIVINE WORSHIP
8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

(Psalm 51:7, ESV)

PRELUDE: *Prelude on “Be Thou My Vision”*
William H. Bates

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT: *O Jesus Sweet, O Jesus Mild*

**O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild,
your Father’s will you have fulfilled.
From heav’n above to earth you came,
and born as man you took our name.
O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild.**

**O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild,
We seek to do what you have willed.
All that we have comes from above;
Lord, keep us walking in your love.
O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN: *New Songs of Celebration Render*

**New songs of celebration render
To him who has great wonders done;
Love sits enthroned in ageless splendor;
Come and adore the mighty One.
He has made known his great salvation,
Which all his friends with joy confess.
He has revealed to ev'ry nation
His everlasting righteousness.**

**Joyfully, heartily resounding,
Let ev'ry instrument and voice
Peal out the praise of grace abounding,
Calling the whole world to rejoice.
Trumpets and organs, set in motion
Such sounds as make the heavens ring;
All things that live in earth and ocean
Make music for your mighty King.**

**Rivers and seas and torrents roaring,
Honor the Lord with wild acclaim;
Mountains and stones, look up adoring,
And find a voice to praise his name.
Righteous, commanding, ever glorious,
Praises be his that never cease:
Just is our God, whose truth victorious
Establishes the world in peace.**

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which 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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, binding all the church as one! As it

**was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM 8:30 A.M.

**John Gregor Drummond, Jr., son of Abigail and
John Drummond**

**BAPTISMAL HYMN 8:30 A.M.: *Our Children,
Lord, in Faith and Prayer***

**Our children, Lord, in faith and pray'r,
we now devote to thee;
Let them thy cov'nant mercies share,
and thy salvation see.**

**In early days their hearts secure
from worldly snares, we pray;
O let them to the end endure
in every righteous way. Amen.**

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS 11:15 A.M.

HYMN: 11:15 A.M. *Saints of Zion*

**From Abel's favored off'ring to Jesus' holy cross,
The church of God's own choosing
has triumphed over loss.
Then come, O saints of Zion
in sweet communion wed;
The bride awaits her glory:**

Lord Jesus Christ, her head.

**By faith our fathers labored:
in faith they lived and died.
From Abraham to David,
faith stood when it was tried.
Then come, O saints of Zion
in sweet communion wed;
The bride awaits her glory:
Lord Jesus Christ, her head.**

**This covenant of grace divine,
by Christ's own blood was bought;
The promises of blessing shall never come to nought.
Then come, O saints of Zion
in sweet communion wed;
The bride awaits her glory:
Lord Jesus Christ, her head.**

**By martyr's death the holy seed
was sown in grief and pain,
That holy seed will flourish
till Christ shall come again.
Then come, O saints of Zion
in sweet communion wed;
The bride awaits her glory:
Lord Jesus Christ, her head.**

**The church of God triumphant
shall in that final day
Have all her sons and daughters**

home from the well fought fray.
Then come, O saints of Zion
in sweet communion wed;
The bride awaits her glory:
Lord Jesus Christ, her head.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

I would neither hide nor cover my sins from you, Almighty God, my Heavenly Father. Rather, I would confess them before You with a humble, repentant, and obedient heart. Forgive me, because of your goodness and mercy to me in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MORNING PRAYER

HYMN 8:30 A.M.: *Be Thou My Vision*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught 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, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;

Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

**Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r:
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**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, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

OFFERTORY: *God Be In My Head* Robert Farrell

**God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and at my departing.**

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.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:19-34

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me,

because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

SERMON:

Dr. Neil Stewart

“Behold the Lamb of God”

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN: *O Breath of Life, Come Sweeping Through Us*

**O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
Revive your church with life and pow’r;
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit your church to meet this hour.**

**O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
Till humbly we confess our need;
Then in your tenderness remake us,
Revive, restore, for this we plead.**

**O Breath of love, come breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart;**

**Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
Revive your church in every part.**

**O Heart of Christ, once broken for us,
'Tis there we find our strength and rest;
Our broken, contrite hearts now solace,
And let your waiting church be blest.**

**Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
While harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
Equip your church to spread the light.**

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

**Search me, O God, search me and know my heart,
Try me, O God, my mind and spirit try,
Keep me from any path that gives thee pain,
And lead me in the everlasting way.**

**POSTLUDE: *Trumpet Processional in G*
David German**