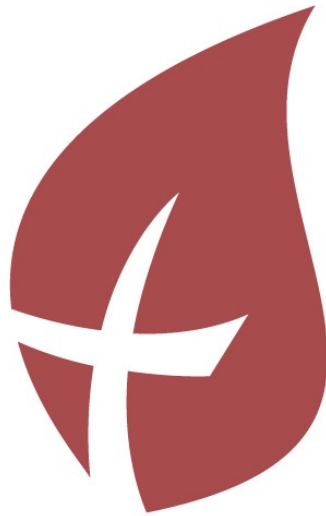


Sunday Morning Worship

October 5, 2025



**FIRSTBAPTIST
CHURCH
UPPERMARLBORO**

7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

301-952-0117 :: www.fbcum.org :: fbcum@firstbaptistum.com

Order of Worship

October 5, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Prayer

Call to Worship — Psalm 33:1-4

Song — Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

The Gospel

Song — Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Scripture Reading — Deuteronomy 7:6-11

Pastoral Prayer

Song — How Great Is Your Faithfulness

Prayer of Thanks

Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Message — Zach Schlegel

“Certainty About the Good News”

Luke 1:1-4

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Song — Lamb of God

Song — Doxology

Benediction

Comfort Rooms: To help accommodate families with small children and individuals with special needs or medical conditions, a live video feed of the worship service is available in rooms 116, 117/118, 119, 120-125.

Visitors & Guests: Stop by the Welcome Desk for church information and to receive a welcome packet.

Call to Worship — Psalm 33:1-4 (ESV)

- ¹ Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!
Praise befits the upright.
- ² Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!
- ³ Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
- ⁴ For the word of the LORD is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson

Verse 1:

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 name! I'm fixed upon it,
Name of Thy redeeming love.

Verse 2:

Hither to Thy love has blessed me
Thou hast brought me to this place;
And I know Thy hand will bring me
Safely home by Thy good grace;
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Verse 3:

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, 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, Lord, Take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Verse 4:

O that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen,
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace;
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Bring Thy promises to pass;
For I know Thy power will keep me
Till I'm home with Thee at last.

The Gospel

The Gospel is the good news that God is redeeming the world through Christ, and that He calls everyone everywhere to repent from sin and trust Jesus Christ for salvation.

Each of us has sinned against God,
breaking His law and rebelling against His rule,
and the penalty for our sin is death and hell.

But because of His love, God sent His Son, Jesus,
to live for His people's sake the perfect, obedient life God requires
and to die on the cross in our place for our sin.

On the third day, Christ arose bodily from the grave
and now reigns in heaven, offering forgiveness, righteousness,
resurrection, and eternal blessedness in God's presence
to everyone who repents of sin and trusts solely in Him for salvation.

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Matt Boswell | Matt Papa | Michael Bleacher

Verse 1:

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Verse 2:

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in His suff'ring
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand

Verse 3:

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured love untold

Verse 4:

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave Could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord He is alive
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

Scripture Reading — Deuteronomy 7:6-11 (ESV)

⁶ “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, ¹⁰ and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. ¹¹ You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.

How Great Is Your Faithfulness

Matt Redman | Jonas Myrin

Verse 1:

Now unto the King who reigns over all
And never changes or turns
Unfailing justice unfading grace
Whose promises remain
Yes, Your promises remain

Chorus:

The heavens ring
The saints all sing
Great is Your faithfulness
From age to age we will proclaim
Great is Your faithfulness
How great is Your faithfulness

Verse 2:

Ev'rything changes but You stay the same
Your Word and kingdom endure
We lean on the promise of all that You are
And trust forevermore
We will trust forevermore

Bridge:

From generation to generation
You never failed us O God
Yesterday and today and tomorrow
Until the day You return

Sermon Notes

“Certainty About the Good News” :: Luke 1:1-4

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## Church Covenant

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Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other.

We will engage in assembling ourselves together while praying for one another. We will strive for and promote the spiritual growth and advancement of the church by; sustaining worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; contributing cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

As a body of believers, we agree to maintain family and personal devotions, to educate our children in the Christian faith, and to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances. We will seek to avoid all practices or speech which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith.

We will walk together in Christian love by faithfully caring for, watching over, and admonishing one another as occasions may require. In conflict, we will seek to follow Christ's example of reconciliation without delay. We will always strive to be humble and courteous in our speech and slow to take offense. We agree that should we leave this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with a like-minded church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Lamb of God

Bob Kauflin | David LaChance Jr.

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### Verse 1:

O Lamb of God all worlds obeyed Your will  
From dark and void their being came  
O Lamb of God, Your glories echo still  
Creation sings its Maker's praise  
Eternal God, One with the Father  
Before all time You dwelt in love  
Eternal God, unlike all others  
Yet You descended unto us

### Verse 3:

O Lamb of God, Now reigning on the throne  
The Judge of all faithful and true  
O Lamb of God, You'll make Your power known  
When all Your foes receive their due  
Victorious King, When history's fading  
You'll call Your Bride To take her place  
Victorious King, Creation's waiting  
For Your redeemed to see Your face

### Verse 2:

O Lamb of God, in filthy manger lay  
In humble dress You entered earth  
O Lamb of God, Creator bows to save  
The needy ones helpless from birth  
Incarnate Word, Gift of the Father  
To take our place and bear our sin  
Incarnate Word, Led to the slaughter  
You conquered death and rose again

## Doxology

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Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Amen!

This Week at First Baptist Church

Sunday, October 5

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes
10:00 AM Sunday Worship w/ Lord's Supper
6:00 PM Youth Night

Monday, October 6

Tuesday, October 7

10:30 AM Tuesday Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, October 8

5:45 PM King's Kids Choir
6:30 PM AWANA
Elder-led Bible Study
Choir / Band Rehearsal

Thursday, October 9

Friday, October 10

6:30 PM Women's Dessert & Worship Fellowship

Saturday, October 11

Sunday, October 12

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes
10:00 AM Sunday Worship
6:00 PM Youth Night

Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

Friday, October 10

6:30 PM — Women's Dessert & Song Event

Sunday, October 19

3:00 PM — Children's Harvest Party

October 20 — 28

Mission Team serving at Bangkok City Baptist Church — Thailand

Sunday, November 9

Starting Point Seminar — immediately following worship service
(Seminar for those interested in church membership. Contact the church office to register
or use the Digital Communication Card on the back of this bulletin.)

Praying with First Baptist Church

A Prayer Guide for the week of October 5

Prayer of the week:

Consider using the Apostle Paul's prayer from the book of Colossians 1:9-10 as a springboard for your own prayer time this week. This is a great prayer to use as you pray through the church directory for your church family this week.

⁹...we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

We recognize our need for God's help in all the areas of our lives. The categories and requests listed below are intentional ways to pray for each other as a church family. For help in knowing how and what to pray for, look up the Scripture included with each item.

Ongoing prayer items in the life of our church:

- Pray for opportunities and boldness to share the gospel with loved ones (Matt. 28:19)
- Pray for conversions (John 3:3, Acts 16:14)
- Pray for the children of our church to hear and understand the gospel and be saved. (Luke 8:8)
- Pray for the preaching of God's word – for faithfulness, fruitfulness, and God's glory (2 Tim. 4:2, 1 Cor. 2:4-5, Isa. 55:10-11)
- Pray for increased one to one discipleship relationships in our church family (Matt. 28:19-20)
- Pray for unity in our diversity both on Sunday and through the week (Rom. 15:13, Eph 4:2-3)
- Pray for continued growth and joy in the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-5, 2 Pet. 1:12)
- Pray for growth in holiness, hatred of sin and growth in humility (Prov. 8:13, 1 Pet. 1:14-16)
- Pray for honest, loving relationships in our church (Col. 3:12-13, James 5:16)
- Pray for families: marriages to thrive, parents to teach/love/discipline carefully, and children to obey (Eph. 5:22-6:4)
- Pray that giving would be faithful, joyful, consistent, and sacrificial (2 Cor. 8:9)

Prayer items outside our church:

- Pray that our elected officials would fear God, seek His wisdom, have integrity, humility, and work together for the good of society and not self. (1 Tim. 2:1-2, Rom. 13:1-7)
- Pray for fruitful ministry in other gospel-proclaiming churches in our area. (Rom. 15:20, 1 Cor. 16:1-3, Matt. 28:19-20)

- Pray that God would bring a swift end to wars going on throughout the world and establish peace. Pray for protection and care for the many refugees fleeing to safety. Pray that those impacted would trust in God in the midst of their suffering. (Ps. 139:23-24)
- Pray for our ministry partners locally and around the world—Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D), North American Mission Board (NAMB) and International Mission Board (IMB). Pray especially for those we have direct partnerships with: Jeremy McClain (Mercy of Christ Fellowship Church, DC), Joel Kurz (The Garden Church, Baltimore), Daniel and Brandy Spandler-Davison and Susanna Schriever (Bangkok City Baptist Church, Thailand). Pray the gospel would flourish and churches would be planted and strengthened through their work. Pray that God would supply their needs. (Ps 93:4, Col. 1:5-6, 1 Pet. 4:12-17)

Particular prayer items in the life of our church:

- Praise God for the new members recently brought into our church family: Joe and Diane Carter, Ciara Cook, Sharon Faxio, Jennifer Gonzalez, Nolan Hawit, Verna Hinton, Pearl Nicholls, Joseph Nkwetaketu and Martha Tacham Epse Tangu, Caleb and Kelsie Rathbun, Hudson Schlegel, Greg and Beth Spraul, Ella Spraul, Bonita Taylor. Pray that God would unify us in Jesus Christ and that opportunities for fellowship would abound (Rom. 15:5-6, Acts 2:42)
- Pray for the Mission Team going out from our church to Bangkok City Baptist Church, Thailand, Oct 20-28; Pastor Zach Schlegel, Jason Brown, Gay Laxton, Erin Messing, Nikki Butler and Kirsten. Pray that our team would be helpful and an encouragement to the local church and pastors they are serving and that the Gospel would flourish through their ministry.
- Pray that good spiritual fruit would come from discipleship efforts in small groups, one to one meetings, and as people show hospitality to others in our church. (1 Pt 4:9; Gal 6:2)
- Pray our church family would not grow weary of doing good. Pray we would live and interact with one another in a way that reveals God's steadfast love and mercy to the world. (Gal 6:9)
- Pray that we know a profound contentment no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in – a contentment from knowing God is our help. (Heb. 13:5-6)
- Pray God would guard our church from fear, anxiety, and disunity. Pray that we would trust that God is good and be assured that He is in control. (John 13:34-35)
- Pray that God would help us comprehend his good design for the church and center our lives around it for the sake of his glory being made known. (Eph 3:10; 3:21)
- The following individuals have expressed particular prayer concerns:

Margaret Austin, Alice Copeland, Connie Crawford, Jim and Pat Ernster, Lucie Lowe, Melissa Thomaswicks, Bonnie Trott, Glenn Walker

(To submit a prayer request, please use the Prayer Request Card available in the sanctuary and drop them in the offering basket or contact the Prayer Room at 301-952-8877.)

Ministry Spotlight

“Ministry Spotlight” is meant to bring to your attention active church ministries and programs at FBC Upper Marlboro. We hope that each month you will pray for all those serving and consider how you may support their efforts. *You may notify us if you would like to learn more about the ministries at FBCUM by using the Digital Communication Card (see QR code on the back of this bulletin). Pick up a copy of “Places to Serve” in the magazine racks near the exits for information on all the church ministries.*

Prayer Ministry



Bernice McGuire

Meet the person that leads the Prayer Ministry, Bernice McGuire. She serves with dedication and devotion to the Prayer Ministry. According to Bernice, the Prayer Ministry is the most important ministry of our Church. Prayer is a command from the Lord to pray for one another and it is a great privilege to do so. It really is a precious gift from God. Serving in this ministry requires concentration, persistence and faithfulness, but the rewards are priceless. When you see those prayers answered our faith is increased, and we just praise Him from whom all blessings flow.

If you joined the Prayer Ministry the first thing you would do as a member is to pray for the ministry and those that serve in the prayer ministry. Then you would commit to a specific time to serve each week for one hour in the prayer room. A schedule is necessary to ensure that members do not overlap their time. As you prepare to seek God through intercessory prayer, seek to pray in His divine will.

New requests come into the prayer room weekly. Sources for prayer requests include Prayer Request Cards, Church Bulletin, Church Directory, IMB (International Mission Board), and NAMB (North American Mission Board.) A little administrative work is involved in organizing the new prayer requests. Once that is completed, members will pray through the prayer requests as they pray each week, initial and date the prayer card. Prayer requests are kept in order such that no prayer request is missed through the rotation of prayers.

Ministry Spotlight

There is also a time to follow-up to determine if prayers have been answered or if it is necessary to update the card with additional information. Each prayer request provides contact information to pursue updates or to send a prayer note called a 'Prayer-gram.' One benefit of making a connection by phone is that it brings comfort in knowing that prayers are on going. This is also encouraging for you, as the member, because you are reminded that your prayers are needed and very much appreciated. There are times when these calls will result in learning that the prayer request has been *answered* and that removes this card from the file for prayers over to the most encouraging testimony in the room, the **Answered Prayer Box**. This box is treasured because it is a constant reminder of the Lord's faithfulness and demonstrates the power of the Lord to meet and satisfy the needs of those that requested prayer.



During prayer time, you may be led to send a note in the form of a *Prayer-Gram* as previously mentioned. These cards allow you to send an encouraging note about the concern and reassures the individual that the prayers are continuing. Recipients of these *prayer-grams* often experience great encouragement and appreciation for the prayers being presented to the Lord on their behalf. This may also spark the recipient

to call the prayer room to offer an update or just share how much it means to know that their needs are constantly in prayer

The Prayer room provides several methods for people to present their prayer requests, by email - Pray4mefbc@gmail.com; by phone - 301-952-8877; or by submitting a Prayer Request Card (usually found in the worship center in the back of the chairs).

We currently have six faithful pray-ers and we have room for at least 30 more. Bernice would love to show you the Prayer Room and answer any questions you might have. The Prayer room is a place where you spend time seeking the Lord to answer a specific prayer request. If you are interested and willing to serve others through prayer, please contact Bernice McGuire and join the Prayer Ministry!

Announcements

1. Women's Dessert and Worship Fellowship—Friday, October 10 at 6:30pm. Ladies, mark your calendar! Join us for a Women's Dessert & Worship Fellowship on Friday, October 10th from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Bring your favorite dessert to share and plan on enjoying fellowship and a time of worship through music/songs. Invite your friends & neighbors! Have your dessert cut and ready to serve.

2. Children's Ministry Harvest Party (K-6th and their families) — October 19, 3-5pm. Children grades K-6th and their families are invited to a Harvest Party at the church. There will be games, S'mores, races, pumpkin patch, pumpkin decorating, and more! Bring a friend! Rain date 10/26.

3. Interested in Church Membership? Attend Starting Point :: November 9 after worship.

Starting Point is a seminar-style meeting following the worship service open to anyone interested in joining our church family or simply learning more about who we are and what we believe. Approximately 12-2:30pm. A light lunch will be served. Register by contacting the church office or using the digital communication card below.

4. Giving. We thank God for the faithful giving of our church family that sustains the gospel ministry here at FBC Upper Marlboro. As a reminder, there are three ways you can give:

- online: click the link or scan the QR code,
- in-person: designated boxes in the church foyer or during the worship service,
- by mail: send to the church office.



Church members with a benevolence request, please contact the church office.



Digital Communication Card

Are you interested in receiving more information about the church, meeting with a pastor, or sharing a prayer need? Scan the QR code to fill in our digital communication card and someone will follow up with you. You're always welcome to contact the church office: 301-952-0117.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of UPPER MARLBORO

Women's DESSERT + WORSHIP Fellowship

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

6:30 - 8:30pm

*Join us for sweet treats,
fellowship, and worship
through song.*

*Bring a dessert to share —
cut and ready to serve.*



7415 CRAIN HIGHWAY

FBCUM.ORG

FBC Children's Ministry invites you to a:

Harvest Party

Sunday, October 19, 2024 from 3 - 5 pm
for grades K-6 and their family, at the church.

(Rain Date Sunday, October 26)

Games—S'mores—Races—
Pumpkin Decorating —Pumpkin Patch

Bring a Friend!!

The Gospel of Luke: Confidence about Jesus

[Luke 1:1-4](#)

“Certainty About the Good News”—October 5, 2025



Introduction

Certainty is good and important. We base life decisions on it. What about certainty in religion? There are three options. Option One: You are uncertain, and you are comfortable with that. Religion doesn't really mean that much. Right and wrong doesn't matter; you just need to believe. Option Two: You can be certain about your view of God, reality, truth, heaven and hell, but you can be completely wrong. ([1 Timothy 1:7](#)) Just feeling something - certainty, confidence, etc. are not enough. Option Three: You can be certain about the truth of God, but you begin to waver. You have gone "all in" with Jesus, and life gets harder. This gives you pause about your certainty. You may ask, "Is it worth it?" "Where can you find certainty?" "Is it possible?"

As we look at the book of Luke, we want to orient ourselves to this book. Who is the author? Who is the audience? Why did he write it?

Luke is the author. He is a doctor and a missionary colleague of Paul. ([Colossians 2:4](#)) His Gospel and the book of Acts belong together. He began with Jesus' birth in the Gospel and then moved into the spreading of the gospel through the church in Acts. He had extensive time with the apostle Paul, the other apostles and the eyewitnesses as they traveled through Asia Minor and on to Rome.

Luke was writing to Theophilus who could have been a gentile, Roman official who converted to Christianity, entering a multi-ethnic church consisting of Jews and Gentiles. He may have wondered if he actually belonged. Luke compiled this account so that Theophilus would have certainty concerning what was taught. Luke worked hard to produce an orderly account of the life of Jesus. What is it about this gospel that gives certainty?

Sermon Outline

1. The Gospel of Luke is a biblical account. Vs. 1
2. The Gospel of Luke is an historical account. Vs. 2
3. The Gospel of Luke is a careful account. Vs. 3
4. The Gospel of Luke is a true account. Vs. 4

Read & Discuss

1. Read Vs. 1

Luke is talking about the things accomplished "among us," referring to the Old Testament promises and prophecies of what God would do. Now in the New Testament, you see the fulfillment of those promises. God is faithful to do what He said He would do.

The Old Testament promises that the Messiah would come as a King in the line of David. Hundreds of years later, in Luke 2, we see Jesus born in the line of David. The Messiah would be born of a virgin ([Isaiah 7:14](#)), and we see in Luke 1, the angel going to Mary to tell her that she would bear the Messiah. The Old Testament goes into detail about Jesus' life - His birth, His ministry, healings, death, and resurrection. Every promise is fulfilled. ([Luke 24:44-48](#))

This is a reason for you to believe the truth of scriptures. Jesus fulfilled ALL of the prophecies about Himself. You can know that Luke's gospel is trustworthy. As you go through this gospel, notice how often he says things "must" happen. They must happen because God is faithful; He is working His plan - to send a Savior to atone for sin and reconcile people to Himself. We see the first promise of this in [Genesis 3:17-19](#). The Messiah would make a people for God. God is the God who brings people in. ([Luke 19:10](#))

2. Read Vs. 2

His gospel is not based on myths, fairy tales, or opinion. It is based on the eyewitnesses - people who were there, who heard, touched, and saw Jesus. Luke was with Paul in Jerusalem for two years with the opportunity to interview eyewitnesses of people who saw Jesus. Given his detailed account of the women in chapter 1 and 2, it's very likely that Luke interviewed Mary and Elizabeth.

Luke gives a lot of details about the political climate, cities and towns, and events in history. In contrast to other religions, one of the essential aspects of Christianity is that it is rooted in history. Luke gives an account of Jesus'

resurrection. There were powerful people that were invested in keeping this information from getting out and discrediting the resurrection. So why isn't there some definitive silencing of that even? You can't find it. There was inescapable evidence of the empty tomb and 500 witnesses. This is a reliable, historical account.

3. Read Vs. 3

How did Luke put this all together? It wasn't random. It was orderly. He was meticulous, following all the events closely. He didn't cut corners or pick the parts that he liked. He reported everything. He checked his sources. He went back to the beginning - the angel visiting Elizabeth, Mary and the birth of Jesus. He was careful because he wanted to write an orderly account. He wanted Theophilus to have certainty about Jesus and what happened. He wanted us to have that certainty as well. This account is accurate.

As you read through this gospel, notice how the disciples of Jesus, who are the main characters and future leaders of the church, are depicted by Luke. They were petty, slow to believe, quick tempered, argumentative. Why did he write this? Well, this is what happened. Luke recorded that the women were the first to the tomb as eyewitnesses of the resurrection. Women were not considered to have valid testimony, but that is what happened – they were there first. Luke's writings were never contradicted by eyewitnesses. As you read the gospels, do you hear God's voice? Ultimately, God was guiding him. These words are God-breathed. ([2 Peter 1:21](#)) As you read this gospel, you are reading the very words of God. Luke invites us to test his gospel. Ask your tough questions. If the gospel of Luke is true, we don't have worry that it will unravel.

4. Read Vs. 4

"That you may have certainty..." Why did Luke write this gospel? So that "you might have certainty about the things that had been taught." One thing that every world religion has in common is that your acceptance by God and path to Heaven depend on what you do. One of the problems with this approach is the nagging question - how can you know when you've done enough good? There is no certainty. Christianity offers certainty. It is not based on performance. Do you keep looking to yourself and your works? Look to Jesus.

We are all sinners. Any good you do will not erase the stain of sin. To approach a holy God, you must be perfect. The solution is to look at Jesus who accomplished for us what we could not do for ourselves. The God-Man lived a perfect life. He died on the cross as a substitute for sinners like you and me. He took all of our sin, paying the penalty that our sin demands. On the third day, He rose again. Anyone who turns from their sin and trusts in Christ will be saved. You can have certainty because it is based on Jesus.

Christianity isn't a blind leap into darkness. We have a biblical record of eyewitness' testimony. We have reason to believe. As you read through the Bible, it is remarkable how unified it is. The promises of God are fulfilled. The events are verified by history, and accurately recorded.

Is your life going well? Are you okay with uncertainty? Are you afraid that believing the truth will "mess up" your life now? Why do you believe what you believe about Jesus? Are your beliefs supported by history, rooted in fulfilled prophecy, and told by eyewitnesses? Or are your beliefs rooted in what you want them to be? Do you really want to risk your eternity on what you feel or what you want to be true? Are you on the fence about Jesus? When will enough evidence be enough? Or is it possible that you just don't want this to be true? What is holding you back from going "all in" with Jesus? Follow the evidence. Read with an open mind. Ask your questions. Trust the good news of Jesus. Turn from your sin, and trust in Christ. You will rejoice with joy that is inexpressible!

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at.

Next week's sermon text: Romans 5:1-5 "Joy in Our Suffering"

Family Guide for week of October 5th, 2025

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.



Suggestions on getting started:

- Decide on a time & place (breakfast, dinner, before bed, etc.)
- Start simple and short (ten minutes or less). Start with three things: 1) Read God's word, 2) Pray together and 3) Sing together. Scripture memory and catechism questions are *optional* if you have the time. Better to start small than bite off more than you can chew and give up.
- Be flexible. It doesn't need to look cookie-cutter similar for every family. Know yourself and know your kids: their personality, age, maturity, etc. [For younger kids consider starting with a good children's Bible like [The Big Picture Story Bible](#).]
- If you don't know the answer to a question someone has, don't act like you do! Say something like, "Great question, let me look into that." Study, ask a pastor or Christian friend and get back to them.
- Embrace the chaos. Kids are kids – don't expect it to be a perfect roundtable discussion with quiet, attentive children every time. Be patient and persistent. Patterns and habits help to set expectations over time.
- To learn more about family worship check out Donald Whitney's book (available at our church bookstall): [Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home](#).

Family Guide for week of October 5th, 2025

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.



Bible Intake: (Listening to God)

Day 1 – Ephesians 5

Day 2 – Ephesians 6

Day 3 – Philippians 1

Day 4 – Philippians 2

Day 5 – Philippians 3

*Read **Romans 5:1-5** in preparation for church on Sunday, October 12, 2025

Prayer: (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 29 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Ask God to give you opportunities this week to tell others about Jesus.

Sing together

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" – Use the bulletin from Sunday.

Memory verses for the month

Deuteronomy 13:4 "You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him."

Colossians 1:18 "And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. "

Catechism question for the week¹

Question 12: What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

Answer: Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone.

¹ New City Catechism (<http://newcitycatechism.com/>)