

In Praise of God and His Church

Psalm 48

I. God and His Church are Praiseworthy v.1-8

A. In Praise of God

B. In Praise of the Church that Praises God

II. God and His Church Praised v. 9-13

A. Rejoicing and Delighting in God

B. Rejoicing and Delighting in God's Church

III. Conclusion v. 14

"In singing the psalm we must be affected with the privilege we have as members of the gospel church, and must express and excite our sincere good-will to all its interests". –Matthew Henry

Welcome To Fifth Street Presbyterian Church

Our purpose for meeting together today is to meet with our Lord as a body of believers. We meet that we might hear Him speak in the reading and preaching of His Word. And, we meet to respond to His voice in our songs, prayers, and affirmations. In the ordinary worship of God we find extraordinary grace, encouragement and reason to hope. This corporate worship of God is the most important thing that happens upon the earth and we are delighted to have you with us as we approach the Father in Christ's name by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This week at a glance:

Sunday	9:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M. 5:00 P.M.	Sunday School Worship Service Evening Service
Tuesday	7:00 P.M.	Session
Wednesday	7:00 A.M.	Reading Calvin
Thursday	7:15 P.M.	Women's Evening Study

If you are visiting today, we would appreciate a record of your visit, which you can provide by filling out one of the visitor's cards that you will find in the pew. Please place the card in the offering plate. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 19, 2016

The Women's evening study of the Heidelberg Catechism will resume Thursday, June 23 at 7:15 p.m. We will meet each Thursday at the home of Jane Simmons. For more information speak to Jane or Caitlin Covey. You are welcome to invite others. The Heidelberg Catechism is a very rich and pastoral summary of the doctrines of the Bible and this study is designed to not only aid in our understanding of those doctrines but to also explore the application of those truths to the life of the Christian.

By the good providence of God our nursery needs have grown. We need some additional ladies to help in the nursery. Please speak to Rosie if you are willing to assist.

Copies of Harvest USA's most recent magazine are on the table in the narthex. Harvest USA is a ministry and resource for those struggling with sexual sin as well as those who wish to minister to others who are struggling.

Thinking about our worship and the receiving of tithes and offerings
Hebrews 7 reflects on the tithe paid to Melchizedek by Abraham and invites us to think through the practice of receiving tithes and offerings, which is part of our gathered worship. This is a touchy subject and preachers who wish to be biblical and balanced struggle to stay biblical and balanced. There are extremes to be avoided—there are some who are always asking for money, more money and much more money and others hesitant to mention biblical giving for fear of being identified with the “more money” men.

But at its heart, the worship of God through tithes (10% or your increase) and offerings is our attentiveness to the first of the Ten Commandments. The tithe is an expression of God's ownership and rule over us while confessing that all we have belongs to Him and all that we have comes from Him. So as the offering plate is passed today do not look at it as a way to pay the Church's light bill but as a way to express your love for and submission to your God and creator. This is why Paul can talk about giving and being cheerful (2 Cor. 9:7). There is nothing about paying bills that leads to cheerfulness but for us who love our God there is reason for delight and cheerfulness as we testify to our love and submission with this act of worship.

At 5:00 P.M.

In Johnson's book Leading in Worship a number of reasons for a second service on Sundays are given, this one I believe is very compelling. Here is the quote after which I will make a couple observations:

“... a second Sunday service, conducted with thought and excellence, is an opportunity to build the body of Christ that is not to be lightly dismissed. The primary means of grace—prayer, the sacraments, and the reading and preaching of the word, are operative primarily in public worship. A Reformed ecclesiology would recognize that Christian piety is nurtured, Christian commitments are solidified, Christian character is developed, and Christian knowledge is imparted not so much in special camps, conferences, and seminars, but in the regular worship services of the church. A second service has the potential to double the exposure and impact of the regular ministry of the church without taking week nights away from families.” (ps 17-18)

For our Good: For those who long to grow in grace as they grow their relationships with other saints there is no better place to be. Though the spirit of this age invites us to see spiritual growth as something you do on your own, that is not what the Bible teaches. God's means in the gathered community of God's people is God's plan for our spiritual growth. From a biblical prospective the gathered worship services of a church are the most important things in the life of the church and also the most important means for our spiritual growth. To imagine that spiritual growth can be separated from God's ordained means is both dangerous and foolish. If you are not already involved we hope you will give it some thought, we would love to see our evening service mirror our morning attendance—or exceed it.

As a Means of Outreach: The evening service has also become an opportunity for introducing others to the life and ministry of our church. As the trend has long been to discontinue the evening services in churches, sadly even in PCA churches, an opportunity for outreach has evolved. We have had several visitors over the last year seek us out as they were looking for an evening service and it also is a great opportunity to invite and introduce others to our church. The evening service here is relaxed, warm, and structured around singing hymns, praying, and preaching. It is a great time together around things that matter. And yes, it is ok to bribe visitors with food on 2nd and 4th Sundays.