



**First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs**  
April 12, 2026 | 11:00 AM



## **Preparing Your Heart for Worship**

April 12, 2026

*Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.*

- Revelation 14:6-7

## **WELCOME AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

### **TIME OF PREPARATION**

*O Christ, Our Heart's Desire*

by Robert J. Powell

### **\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! LORD GOD ALMIGHTY**

*Hymn #538 (stanza 1)*

- Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

*Words: Reginald Heber, 1827, alt., P.D.*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Revelation 5:11-13*

ELDER: Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

**PEOPLE: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”**

ELDER: And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

**PEOPLE: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”**

**\*IN A DEEP, UNBOUNDED, DARKNESS**

*Hymn #38 (stanzas 1-3 only)*

- 1 **In a deep, unbounded darkness  
long before the first light shone,  
you, O God, beyond all merit,  
worked a wonder faith makes known:  
in your mercy, in your mercy,  
you embraced us as your own  
evermore and evermore.**
  
- 2 **Though our world is ever-changing,  
you are constant, firm, and sure,  
faithful to your covenant promise.  
Trusting you, we live, secure:  
singing praises, singing praises,  
long as heart and breath endure,  
evermore and evermore.**
  
- 3 **Joy transforms our lips to boasting  
only in your matchless grace,  
sending Christ to dwell among us,  
Word made flesh, in time and space:  
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior,  
in whose life we glimpse your face  
evermore and evermore.**

*Words: based on anonymous Chinese poem, Mary Louise Bringle © 2012 GIA Publications, Inc.*

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

*Take some time to greet those around you in the peace and joy of the grace of God.*

**CHILDREN'S LESSON**

## OFFERING

*Beautiful Savior*

By Hoffman Von Fallersleben / arranged by Jay Rouse /  
Kay Howell, pianist

*Giving our tithe is one way we place our trust in the Lord. You may place your offering in the plate as it comes around, scan the QR code on page 13 of your bulletin to give online or text GIVE and the amount you would like to give to 833-444-1577.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

*1 Samuel 5:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. <sup>2</sup>Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. <sup>3</sup>And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. <sup>4</sup>But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him. <sup>5</sup>This is why the priests of Dagon and all who enter the house of Dagon do not tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

*continued on next page*

<sup>6</sup> The hand of the Lord was heavy against the people of Ashdod, and he terrified and afflicted them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory. <sup>7</sup> And when the men of Ashdod saw how things were, they said, “The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for his hand is hard against us and against Dagon our god.” <sup>8</sup> So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, “What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?” They answered, “Let the ark of the God of Israel be brought around to Gath.” So they brought the ark of the God of Israel there. <sup>9</sup> But after they had brought it around, the hand of the Lord was against the city, causing a very great panic, and he afflicted the men of the city, both young and old, so that tumors broke out on them. <sup>10</sup> So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. But as soon as the ark of God came to Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, “They have brought around to us the ark of the God of Israel to kill us and our people.” <sup>11</sup> They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, “Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it return to its own place, that it may not kill us and our people.” For there was a deathly panic throughout the whole city. The hand of God was very heavy there. <sup>12</sup> The men who did not die were struck with tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

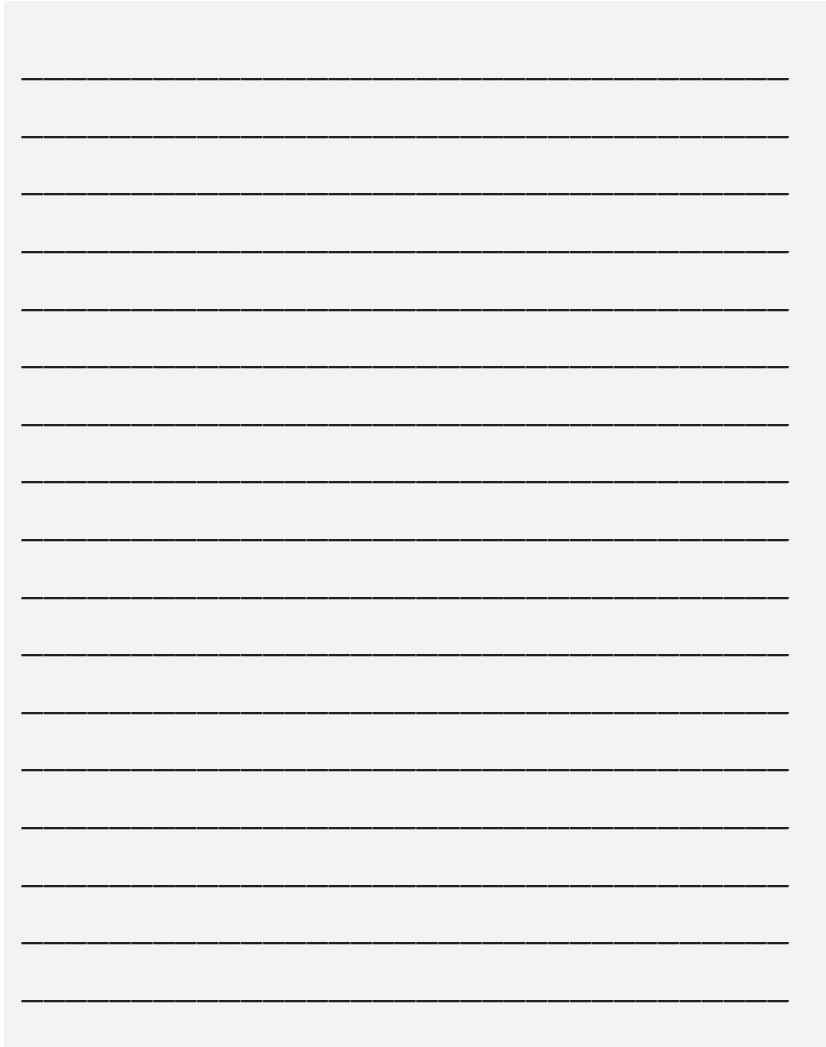
**SERMON: *The Cry of the City***

Series: The Heart of Leadership (week 10)

*1 Samuel 5:1-12*

Rev. Scott Castleman

**NOTES**



## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Prayer of Confession  
Promise of Forgiveness  
Words of Institution  
Celebration of the Sacrament  
Prayer of Commitment

## **\*A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD**

*Hymn #776*

- 1 **A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
our helper he, amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
does seek to work us woe;  
his craft and power are great,  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.**
  
- 2 **Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not the right Man on our side,  
the Man of God's own choosing.  
You ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his name,  
from age to age the same;  
and he must win the battle.**

*continued on next page*

- 3 **And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed  
his truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure,  
for lo! his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.**
- 4 **That Word above all earthly powers—  
no thanks to them—abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever!**

*Words: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852, P.D.*

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH**

*1 Timothy 1:15-17*

ELDER: Church, how is it that we need to understand the gospel in light of our sinfulness and God's amazing grace?

PEOPLE: **The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*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.**

## COME TOGETHER IN PRAYER

### ILLNESS

Frank Allison, Van & Ellen Arnold, Melinda Boswell, Maureen De Jonge, Wendy Duggan, Bryan Fox, Charles Gaines, Ross Grimm, Cheryl Hammond, Judy Howell, Heather Jordan, Rosemary Kahlmus, Senneca Lewis, Nanette Lockhart, Belinda Lott, Suzie Manuel, Vicki McKay, Mark Necaise, Tommy Neff, Tom Nicholson, Dorothy Norris, Patricia O'Neal, Jane Panek, Susan Panek, David Paul, Janice Pepper, Brent Ramsey, Richard Saffle, John Schill, Sheila Seymour, Bob Turner, Priscilla Underwood, Tom Walton, Rick Webster, Chris Williamson, Helen Winger

### SHUT-INS/NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING

Nancy Alford, Trudy Brundage, Sandra Cain, Ginny Canaga, Bea Colburn, Jim & Mayla Comeaux, Pat Finnegan, Craig Gardner, Hendrikje Gast, Ted & Sherry Gilbert, Dr. Robert Goette, Cheryl Gray, John Luna, Mary Nesbitt, Dorothy Norris, Sheila Seymour, Chris Waldron, Betty Walker, Jean & Gaylon Worch

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly  
in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

**- Matthew 11:28-29**

## THE GIFT OF GIVING



Giving our tithe is one way we place our trust in the Lord. You may place your offering in the plate as it comes around, **scan the QR code** to give online or text **GIVE** and the amount you would like to give to **833-444-1577**.

## DOWNLOAD THE FPCOS APP



Apple App Store



Google Play Store

Stay better connected to FPCOS with our FREE app, available now on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store (search FPC Ocean Springs or scan the QR code).

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES April 12-April 18, 2026

Sunday	6:00 PM	<b>Youth Large Group</b>
Monday	1:00 PM	<b>Griefshare</b>
	6:30 PM	<b>Woven: Women's Bible Study</b> <i>(off-campus)</i>
Wednesday	6:00 PM	<b>Youth Small Groups</b>
	6:30 PM	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
Thursday	5:30 PM	<b>Praise Team Rehearsal</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*NEW\***

### **SUMMER YOUTH INTERN HOUSING NEEDED**

We have selected three amazing summer youth interns (Jake, Andrew and Caroline) who will spend June and July with our students here at First Pres. **Do you have an extra room, in-law suite, or guest house and would be willing to host one of our interns from June 1-July 31?** Our two guy interns, Jake and Andrew, can be housed together or individually. If you would like to host or want more information, please contact Youth Ministry Director Sam Oh at [sam@fpocosms.com](mailto:sam@fpocosms.com).

**\*UPDATED\***

### **BELIZE MISSION TRIP - Today is the last day to apply!**

Is God calling you to Belize this summer? This year's trip with The Word at Work will be **July 11-18**, and we are excited to serve with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in Belize. The approximate cost for this trip is **\$1700**, which includes flights, accommodations, transportation, most meals and project costs. **Scan the QR code to apply now!**



### **CRAWFISH/SHRIMP BOIL - Sun, April 19 @ 10:00 AM**

Our annual Crawfish/Shrimp Boil will be next **Sunday, April 19!** We will have **ONE** worship service that day at 10:00 AM, followed by the crawfish/shrimp boil. In addition to crawfish and shrimp, we will also have hamburgers and hot dogs. **We're asking our church family to bring desserts!** We'll have bounce houses for the kids and also have a booth set up to assist our church family with downloading our app, uploading a picture and updating your information for our directory. **We also need LOTS of VOLUNTEERS to help our annual crawfish boil run smoothly! Scan the QR code to help!**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

### REGISTER NOW FOR VBS 2026 - June 1-5 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Registration for **Jungle Quest: A Search for the Truth** is now open! This year's VBS is **June 1-5 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** and is open for children ages 3 through rising 6th grade! Please note - children must turn 3 by June 1, 2026 and be potty trained. **Our VBS program is FREE, but we also offer an extended-day add-on Arts & Culture Camp from 12:00-5:00 PM for \$120/week. For extended-day registrants, we have an early-drop off option from 8:00-9:00 AM for \$65/week.** If you need the extended-day option for your child to attend VBS but need financial assistance, please contact Aimie Barton at [aimie@fpcosms.com](mailto:aimie@fpcosms.com) or Lindsey Plash at [lindsey@fpcosms.com](mailto:lindsey@fpcosms.com).



### MEN'S BOOK CLUB - Thursday, April 23 @ 5:30 PM

Join the men of the church on **Thursday, April 23 at 5:30 PM** for a discussion on Timothy Keller's book, *Every Good Endeavor*. Dinner will be provided. **We still have some books left! Purchase one for \$15 at the church office.** Contact Clay Brown at 228-875-5326 or [clay@fpcosms.com](mailto:clay@fpcosms.com) for more info.

### VOLUNTEER AT THE LORD IS MY HELP -

**Mon, May 4 - Fri, May 8**

Our week to volunteer at The Lord Is My Help is **May 4-8**. Each day, we need 5-7 volunteers to assist with plating for Meals on Wheels and 4 volunteers to assist with serving meals. **Please scan the QR code and sign up if you would like to help that week.**



## MINISTRY AND ADMIN STAFF

Contact the church office at 228-875-5326 or [info@fpcosms.com](mailto:info@fpcosms.com).

### **Rev. Scott Castleman**

*Senior Pastor*

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### **Rev. Kory Duncan**

*Associate Pastor of Missions &  
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*Praise Team Leader*

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### **Emily Wise**

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**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN WORSHIP TODAY.**

We would love to get to know you better. Scan the QR Code to fill out our brief Connect Card and let us know if you have any questions about FPCOS or would just like to learn more about our ministries and how you can get plugged in.

We look forward to connecting with you!

**TO KNOW CHRIST AND  
TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TOGETHER**  
*from the heart of Ocean Springs to the ends of the earth*

**fpcosms.com**

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