



FIRST SCOTS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Of Beaufort

— PCA —

THE LORD'S DAY

March 29, 2026

Sunday School: 9:30AM (all ages)
Morning Worship Service: 10:40AM
Evening Worship Service: 5PM

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Prayer of Preparation: “Our Happiness to Obey”

by Richard Baxter

From *Into His Presence: Praying with the Puritans* by Tim Chester

You, O God, are our Sovereign King,
to rule and judge us.

It is our duty and happiness to obey
and please you.

May we labor therefore to bring our
souls and bodies

into the most absolute subjection
to you,

and to make it our delight and
business

sincerely and exactly to obey
your will.

May our obedience be practical, and
not merely notional.

May our obedience be deep-rooted
and fixed.

May our obedience be constant and
continual.

May our obedience be universal,
respecting all your laws.

May our obedience be resolute and
powerful,

victorious against temptation.

May we respect you as our supreme
King,

recognizing no authority against
you,

nor any except that which is
subordinate to you.

May our obedience be voluntary,
pleasant, cheerful.

May it be our delight to obey you to
our utmost power.

Though obedience is so difficult for
us, yet it is so reasonable, necessary,
and good.

For we, we are unable and unfit to
govern ourselves.

We are so blind and ignorant;

so biased by a corrupted will;

so turbulent are our passions;

so unable to protect and reward
ourselves,

that we should fear nothing in the
world more,

than to be given over to our
stubborn hearts, to follow our

own devices.

But you have perfect wisdom, to know
what is best.

You have perfect goodness, with no
evil in your laws.

You are almighty, to protect your
subjects.

You are most just, and therefore can
do no wrong.

You are infinitely perfect, using no
unrighteous means.

You are self-sufficient, with no need
to lie or deceive.

You are our end, our interest, our
happiness, with no interest other than
our good.

You are our dearest Friend and
Father,

and love us better than we love
ourselves.

Therefore we have every reason
confidently to trust you

and so cheerfully and gladly

obey you as one that rules us to
bless us.

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

MARCH 29, 2026

Parents, we are delighted for your little ones to join us in worship! If they need to stretch their legs or lungs during the service, please feel free to use the Worshipers in Training (WIT) room or the nursery.

WELCOME

Rev. Alex Mark
Senior Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP: ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

[9]Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. [10]I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who 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.

***OPENING HYMN:**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Trinity Hymnal #235

OLD TESTAMENT READING/ CALL TO CONFESSION: PSALM 118:19-29

[19]Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. [20]This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. [21]I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. [22]The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. [23]This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. [24]This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. [26]Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! [26]Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD. [27]The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar! [28]You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. [29]Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: JOHN 1: 12-13

[12]But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, [13]who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

VOWS OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING:

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:** He Will Hold Me Fast see page 6

SERMON: "TRIUMPHAL LOVE" Rev. Alex Mark
John 15:9-17

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING:** Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus Trinity Hymnal #481

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, #252 (Stanza 4)

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

He Will Hold Me Fast

(When I Fear My Faith Will Fail)

Words vv. 1-2 by Ada Habershon (1861-1918)
 Alt. words vv.1-2, words v.3, and Music by Matt Merker

Full of Hope (♩ = 66)
 (v3:Gm7)

B♭ B♭/D E♭ E♭ F B♭

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
 2. Those He saves are His de - light, Christ will hold me fast;
 3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;

(v3:Gm7)

5 B♭ B♭/D E♭ E♭ F B♭

When the tempt - er would pre - vail, He will hold me fast.
 Pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, He will hold me fast.
 Just - ice has been sat - is - fied; He will hold me fast.

9 Gm F/A B♭ E♭ E♭ D Gm

I could nev - er keep my hold Through life's fear - ful path;
 He'll not let my soul be lost; His Prom - is - es shall last;
 Raised with Him to end - less life, He will hold me fast

13 Gm F/A B♭/D E♭ E♭ F B♭

For my love is oft - en cold; He must hold me fast.
 Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.
 'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

MORNING SERMON TEXT

[9]“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. [10]If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. [11]These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. [12]This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13]Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. [14]You are my friends if you do what I command you. [15]No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. [16]You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. [17]These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”—John 15:9-17

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

I. THE LOVE THAT HOLDS US FAST

II. THE LOVE THAT TRANSFORMS US

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES (CONT'D)

III. THE LOVE THAT STRETCHES US

Christian Love Defined

(a devotional on John 15:12-13 from www.ligonier.org)

In an age when love is frequently lauded but often misunderstood, we must have a proper view of love. Modern culture bombards us with messages telling us that love is a mere feeling, that we will never disapprove of those whom we truly love, and that everything done in the name of love is right. But the Scriptures instruct us otherwise. God's Word makes it clear that true love is costly.

Jesus, in today's passage, emphasizes the cost of love. Having told us to abide in His love (John 15:1–11), Jesus begins to unfold what abiding in His love looks like. Love means loving others as Jesus has loved us, particularly in laying down our lives for our friends (vv. 12–13). Our Savior obviously makes an allusion here to His atoning death on the cross that turns away the wrath of God (Rom. 3:21–26), and this means we must first consider what laying down our lives for our friends does not entail. After all, none of us is the spotless Lamb of God sent to save sinners, so none of us can lay down our lives in exactly the same manner as Jesus. Christian theologians have long recognized this truth. Augustine of Hippo, for example, comments on it at length in a sermon on today's passage.

We cannot love others as Jesus has loved us in the sense of atoning for their sin; however, there are other ways in which we can imitate the love of Christ. For example, Christ loved us so much that He was willing to leave His place of glory with the Father in order to pay for our sins on the cross (Phil. 2:5–11). We, likewise, can refuse to exploit our privileges in order to meet the needs of others. Furthermore, Jesus spent His life in service to others, healing the sick and teaching God's truth. Similarly, we can spend our lives in service to others, helping even those who seem the least deserving of our assistance and pointing people to Christ.

Some of us may literally have to die in order to save another person's life, but that will be rare. More likely, we will lay down our lives in a multitude of smaller ways. Parents can set aside their right to rest quietly after a hard day of work in order to spend time with their children. Employers, when appropriate, can refrain from giving overly harsh but deserved criticism of employees in order to work alongside them and help them improve. Retirees can give up part of the spare time they labored years to earn in order to volunteer at their churches. Whatever our station in life, we should look for ways to spend our lives for the sake of others.

Christian love is costly, and it looks for ways to give of itself to others. Every day, there are little ways we can sacrifice some of our rights and privileges in order to love others, especially those in the body of Christ. Let us look this day to give up something in order to do good to another person.

THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

March 29, 2026

Hymn Sing

Rev. Alex Mark
Senior Pastor

Call to Worship

Psalm 113

[1]Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!
[2]Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! [3]From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! [4]The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens! [5]Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, [6]who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? [7]He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, [8]to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people. [9]He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!

**Opening Hymn:*

O God beyond All Praising

Trinity Hymnal #660

Scripture Reading:

Acts 4:32-37

Evening Prayer

Scripture Reading & Sermon: "IF I AM YOUR LORD & FATHER,
WHERE IS MY HONOR?" SAYS THE LORD
Malachi 1:6-14

Rev. Tom Brown

**Closing Hymn*

O Great God

see pages 13 & 14

**Benediction*

**Congregation Standing*

MALACHI 1:6-14

[6]“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’ [7]By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the LORD’s table may be despised. [8]When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. [9]And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts. [10]Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle a fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand. [11]For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. [12]But you profane it when you say that the Lord’s table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised. [13]But you say, ‘What a weariness this is,’ and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD. [14]Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.”

EVENING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

I. YOU HAVE DISHONORED MY NAME (v. 6)

EVENING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES (CONT'D)

II. BY YOUR DISHONORABLE OFFERINGS (v. 7-11)

III. BY YOUR DISHONORABLE ATTITUDES (v. 12-14)

O GREAT GOD

Words and Music by Bob Kauflin

C G C Dm C/D Dm C F Fadd2/A

1. O great God of high-est heav'n, oc - cu - py my low - ly heart. Own it
 2. I was blind - ed by my sin, had no ears to hear Your voice, did not
 3. Help me now to live a life that's de - pen - dent on Your grace. Keep my

C G C F Fmaj7 G2/G G F/G C G F2/G2/G

all and reign supreme, con-quer ev - ery re - bel pow'r. Let no
 know Your love with - in, had no taste for heav - en's joys. Then Your
 heart and guard my soul from the e - vils that I face. You are

Am Am7 G/F F2/G2 C G F/G Am Am7 F Fmaj7/C G2/G G F/G G

vice or sin re - main that re - sists Your ho - ly war. You have
 Spir - it gave me life, o - pened up Your Word to me, through the
 worth - y to be praised with my ev - ery thought and deed. O great

Fadd2/A F/A G/B C F C/F G2/G G G2/G C

loved and pur - chased me, make me Yours for - ev - er - more.
 gos - pel of Your Son, gave me end - less hope and peace.
 God of high - est heav'n, glo - ri - fy Your Name through me.

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Vain Priestly Offerings

(a devotional on Malachi 1:6-14 from www.ligonier.org)

Scripture tells us repeatedly that divine election brings with it important responsibilities. Certainly, election itself is by grace alone, based not on anything we do, and we can in no way take credit for it; otherwise, grace would not be grace (Rom. 11:1–6). However, God does not elect people to salvation so that they can sit around and do nothing. All whom He has chosen are called to bear fruit and, indeed, prove their election by their love for the Lord in word and deed. This is why the New Testament is insistent that justification is by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone. Good works of obedience are not the ground of justification, but they are its proof and the fruit of sanctification (James 2:14–26; 2 Peter 1:3–15).

Malachi understood this doctrinal point quite well, which explains why he is so harsh on the post-exilic community in today's passage. God had chosen Israel to be His people, not Edom or any other nation (Mal. 1:1–5), but the people in Malachi's day were providing hardly any proof of their election. The prophet charges the community—particularly the priests, who should have known better—with dishonoring Him with polluted offerings (vv. 6–14). When the ancient Jews brought animal sacrifices to the Lord, these animals had to be perfect and free from all diseases and other defects (Deut. 17:1). Yet the people were offering blind, lame, and sick animals to God. They had the gall to bring animals that they would not offer as gifts to the governor, who, important as he was, was not the most holy Creator of all things (Mal. 1:8). But worst of all, the priests, who were supposed to be the guardians of the sanctity of worship, did not stop the people from bringing impure offerings.

We do not know precisely why the priests were doing this. It probably had to do with their personal economic situations. Old covenant priests depended on the sacrifices for food and income, and they usually ate a portion of the meat or grain that the worshipper brought to the temple (for example, see Lev. 2:1–3). Meat from a defective animal tasted just as good as meat from a stronger animal with no defects. By allowing the Jews to sacrifice a greater quantity of the defective animals instead of the stronger breeding specimens, the priests had more food resources at their disposal.

Given the sorry state of the temple, the priests would have been better off shutting its doors and calling worship off (Mal. 1:10). Malachi condemns them for not doing so and for allowing the people to be complacent in their hypocritical, halfhearted worship.

God wants all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength in all that we do, but particularly in the case of worship. If we are not endeavoring to worship according to His commands and with the right intent, it would be better for us not to worship at all. He does not seek perfect worship from us at the present time, which is impossible given our sinful condition. What He seeks is true, intentional worship that is a testimony to His great glory.