



FIRST SCOTS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Of Beaufort*

— PCA —

**THE LORD'S DAY**

**April 12, 2026**

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

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# Prayer of Preparation: “A Perpetual Refuge”

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

Eternal Lord,  
you are a perpetual refuge and  
security to your people.  
Your providence is not confined to  
one generation;  
it is not one age only that tastes  
your bounty and compassion.  
Your eye has never yet slept,  
nor have you suffered the little ship  
of your church to be swallowed up,  
though it has been tossed upon the  
waves.  
You have always been a haven to  
preserve us and a house to secure us.  
You have always had compassion to  
pity us and power to protect us.  
You have had a face to shine when the  
world has had an angry countenance.  
In all generations you have been a  
dwelling-place,  
to secure your people here, or  
entertain them above.  
Your providence is not wearied nor  
your care fainting.  
You never lack the will to relieve us,  
for you are a refuge;  
nor ever will you lack power to  
support us,

for you are a God from everlasting  
to everlasting.  
The church never lacked a pilot to  
steer her, and a rock to shelter her.  
  
You have always been God;  
no time can be assigned  
as the beginning of your being.  
The gospel is nor preached by the  
command  
of a new and temporary god,  
but at your command, the God  
who was before all ages.  
Though it is a revelation that takes  
place in time,  
yet the purpose and resolve of it  
was from eternity.  
  
We praise you, eternal Father,  
for your eternity is the foundation  
of the stability  
of your covenant with your  
people—the great comfort of a  
Christian.

—Stephen Charnock

# THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

## APRIL 12, 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 worship service, please feel free to use the Worshippers in Training room or the nursery during the service.*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Alex Mark  
Senior Pastor

### **CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 96:1-6**

[1]Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! [2]Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. [3]Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! [4]For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. [5]For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. [6]Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

### **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:**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Trinity Hymnal #92

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING/CALL TO CONFESSION: PSALM 2:1-6**

[1]Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? [2]The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, [3]"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." [4]He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. [5]Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, [6]"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON: PSALM 2:12**

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.



# THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORD

TUNE OF THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

1 This is my Father's Word, and in it I delight.  
In faith I wait, and meditate  
Upon it, day and night.  
This is my Father's Word; 'tis more to be desired  
Than much fine gold; and, from of old,  
Was by His Spirit inspired.

2 This is my Father's Word: than honey far more sweet;  
Most true and sure, most clean and pure;  
A lamp unto my feet.  
This is my Father's Word, for my instruction giv'n.  
Though man's word fails, God's e'er prevails,  
And lights my path to Heav'n.

3 This is my Father's Word, and though all seas and lands  
At last one day shall pass away,  
God's Word forever stands.  
This is my Father's Word, eternal as His Name.  
Time sinks like sand but God's Word stands,  
From age to age the same.

Musical score for the hymn "This is my Father's Word". The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. Above the first staff are the chords C, G, C, F, C, G. Above the second staff are the chords C, C G C, C G C. Above the third staff are the chords C F G C, F G C, F. Above the fourth staff are the chords C, C G C, C G C. The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes.

# MORNING SERMON TEXT

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[18]“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. [19]If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore, the world hates you. [20]Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. [21]But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. [22]If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. [23]Whoever hates me hates my Father also. [24]If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. [25]But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’ [26]But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. [27]And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

[16:1]I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. [2]They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. [3]And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. [4]But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.”—John 15:18 – 16:4

## MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

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### **I. BELONGING TO CHRIST MEANS BEING REJECTED BY THE WORLD**

# MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES (CONT'D)

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**II. BEAR WITNESS TO HEAVEN WHILE HOLDING LOOSELY TO EARTH**

**III. COUNT THE COST & CLING TO CHRIST**

# The World's Hatred

(a devotional on John 15:18-21 from [www.liogonier.org](http://www.liogonier.org))

Christ has made us His friends by telling us all that God has given Him to reveal concerning our salvation, even as we remain obligated to keep His commandments (John 15:12–15). And we must never fail to emphasize that the initiative for our friendship with the Son of God does not come from us. We did not first choose Christ, but first He chose us (vv. 16–17). This does not mean that there is no sense at all in which we choose to become disciples of Christ; it does mean that we choose to become disciples only because our Savior chose us out of the world to be His disciples. Had He not chosen us first, we never would have chosen Him (Rom. 9:1–29).

Truly, we are humbled, and even honored, to have been chosen by Christ out of the world; however, His choice of us is not one that frees us of all difficulty in this life. In fact, His choice of us guarantees hardship and the world's hatred. Jesus tells us not to be surprised if the world hates us, for we have been chosen out of the world (John 15:18–19). Our Lord does not mean that the world's hatred of us exists as a possibility that may or may not be realized. Instead, Christ means that when the world hates us, we should not be surprised, for we do not belong to the world.

In this text, the Greek word translated as “world” (kosmos) refers not to the created order but to the system of rebellion against God. In other words, that the world will hate us means not that each and every person who lives in the world will hate us but that those who belong to the ranks of rebels against God and His reign will hate us. Christians are not taken out of the world in the sense that we are to disdain the created order; rather, we are separated from the world in that we are redeemed from sin and are now loyal servants of God. Augustine of Hippo, in a sermon on today's passage, gets at this distinction when he writes, “We are forbidden to love the vice that is in [the world], and enjoined to love the nature [of the world, i.e., creation].”

The world cannot help but hate us, because those who are in rebellion against God hate everything that is not also in rebellion against Him. Jesus notes that we should not be surprised when the world hates us for following Him, for they hated Him first. If they hated Him and love us, then we would be greater than Him, but since the servants are not greater than the Master, the world's hatred of Him guarantees it will hate us (John 15:20–21). We will be despised in many circles for keeping the commandments of Christ.

In his commentary [on] John, Dr. R.C. Sproul writes, “We are not supposed to go looking for persecution or hostility, but if we never experience it, that should be a wake-up call to tell us we may not be as committed to Christ as we say we are.” Every believer will at some point face hatred from the world to some degree. If we are never hated for the gospel's sake, we are likely not being true to the gospel.

# The Witness of God's Spirit and People

(a devotional on John 15:26-27 from [www.ligonier.org](http://www.ligonier.org))

Knowing that the original disciples of Jesus—and, by extension, all who would come to follow the Savior through their ministry—would face the world's hatred, our Savior prepared them for that reality during His Farewell Discourse. Christ said that His friends would abide in Him by loving one another but that those in rebellion against God would hate them because they hated Jesus first (John 15:1–25). Such teaching would naturally lead its original hearers to ask two questions. First, since Jesus was going away and returning to the Father (14:1–3), why would the world hate His disciples? Jesus would be gone, after all. Second, in the midst of such opposition, how could the disciples of Jesus hope to remain true to their Lord?

John 15:26–27 provides the answer that Jesus would send “the Helper” to be with them. This “Helper,” of course, is the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus promised to His followers earlier in the Farewell Discourse (14:15–17, 26). Since the Holy Spirit is also the “Spirit of Christ” (Rom. 8:9; 1 Peter 1:11), the third person of the Trinity is the means by which the ascended Savior continues to dwell in and among the disciples. While Jesus is apart from His people bodily until His return in glory, He remains among them by the Spirit. That is why the world can continue to hate us on account of its hating Jesus. It will see Jesus in us and among us as we walk in the Spirit, and it will hate us as a consequence of hating Jesus, who is with us.

The Holy Spirit is also the means by which the disciples of Jesus will remain true to their Lord. He will bear witness to Christ and so remind Jesus' disciples of all that He has taught (John 15:26). But our Lord also said that the disciples would bear witness to Him (v. 27). There is a parallel here: the Holy Spirit will bear witness to Jesus and the disciples will bear witness to Jesus. Essentially, Jesus was saying that the Holy Spirit would empower and sustain the disciples' witness to the Savior. Followers of Jesus need not fear the world, for the Spirit is with all true believers to help them hold fast to the gospel.

Note that today's passage, as throughout the Farewell Discourse, applies first to the original disciples. The disciples had a special role in bearing witness to Jesus and a unique authority to deliver to the church what He taught. But we who come after the Apostles are also witnesses to Christ, and the Spirit enables us to hold fast to the prophetic and Apostolic witness to Jesus—the Holy Scriptures.

Christ is with His people in the power of the Spirit in order to guard us and make us effective witnesses to Him. We dare not rest in our own strength, for we cannot remain true to the gospel on our own. We rely, instead, on the Holy Spirit by asking Him to strengthen us and seeking to know and live by His revealed Word—sacred Scripture.

# THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

## April 12, 2026

*Hymn Sing*

Rev. Alex Mark  
Senior Pastor

*Call to Worship*

Revelation 5:11-14

[11]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, [12]saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" [13]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, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" [14]And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

*\*Opening Hymn:*

O Worship the King

Trinity Hymnal #2

*Scripture Reading:*

Acts 5:12-17

*Evening Prayer*

*Scripture Reading & Sermon:* "THE SERPENT-CRUSHING SAVIOR"  
Genesis 3:14-15

Rev. Alex Mark

*\*Closing Hymn:*

Man of Sorrows! What a Name

Trinity Hymnal #246

*Benediction*

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*\*Congregation Standing*

# GENESIS 3:14-15

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[14]The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. [15]I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.”

## EVENING SERMON NOTES

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# EVENING SERMON NOTES (CONT'D)

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# The First Announcement of the Gospel

(a devotional on Genesis 3:14-15 from [www.ligonier.org](http://www.ligonier.org))

The incarnation of the Son of God in the person of Christ and His subsequent ministry, life, death, resurrection, and ascension all took place in actual history. This is the testimony of the New Testament—that God entered history to save His people from their sin. Yet, this does not mean the Lord was not working in history before the incarnation. In fact, He has been working in history from the very beginning.

Genesis 3:14–15 shows this to be the case. This passage, which Christian theologians have called the protoevangelium, or "first gospel," represents God's actual announcement in history of His plan of salvation. We cannot understand who Jesus is and what He came to do apart from understanding this text and how it is unfolded in the rest of Scripture.

Most of us are probably quite familiar with this text and its immediate context. Our Creator gave Adam and Eve everything they needed and more, even blessing them with His presence in Eden (Gen. 1–2). However, Adam and Eve betrayed God and ate from the forbidden tree, with the consequence of being alienated from Him (Gen. 3:1–13). The Lord would have been just to condemn them right away, and indeed, He did judge them for their sin (vv. 16–19). But God showed His grace in not judging Adam and Eve first. In a text loaded with cosmic significance, the Lord first curses the serpent—who is Satan (Rev. 12:9)—saying that his head will be bruised even as he bruises the heel of the seed of the woman (Gen. 3:14–15). This is nothing less than spiritual warfare instituted by our Maker. God promised His people that the devil would finally be defeated—he would suffer a crushing blow to the head—and that snakes crawl on the ground and lick the dust is a visible reminder of this fact.

The seed of the woman refers at the same time to both one and many individuals. It does not consist of every single descendant of Adam and Eve, for spiritually speaking, some people have a lineage that goes back to Satan (John 8:39–47). Those who are children of the devil are God's enemies; thus, those who are on the Lord's side are the seed of the woman who will defeat Satan. Still, given the fact that even God's friends are tainted by sin, we know that His people cannot be the seed that defeats the devil, at least not in and of themselves. Instead, the seed finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus, who defeated Satan on the cross (Col. 2:13–15). In Him, then, we find ourselves defeating the devil.

In Christ, our final defeat of Satan is assured, for Christ has already dealt the crushing blow. Satan's condition is terminal, and there is no chance that he will see victory. Yet just as the devil bruised Jesus on the cross, so he will endeavor to bruise us until he is cast into the lake of fire on that final day. Knowing this, we can prepare ourselves now to be faithful in suffering, looking to the Founder and Perfecter of our faith so that we will persevere when Satan attacks (Heb. 12:1–2).