



FIRST SCOTS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Of Beaufort

— PCA —

THE LORD'S DAY

March 8, 2026

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

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Prayer of Preparation: “Purify and Cleanse Us” by John Owen

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

Lord God, we come to you aware
of the darkness and ignorance of our
minds,
the perversity and stubbornness of our
wills,
the disorder and irregularity of our
affections.

Cure our evil frame through the work of
your Holy Spirit.

May he rectify and renovate our nature,
giving us a new understanding,
a new heart, new affections,
renewing our whole soul into your
image.

We thank you for his work of
regeneration

that need not be repeated:
our nature has been cleansed
and your image has been restored.

May we now be cleansed from our sins,
as is so frequently promised we shall
be,
as is so frequently prescribed we
should be,
without which we cannot have true
holiness in us.

Help us to labor after, and endeavor to
grow in,
this renovation of our nature by your
Holy Spirit.

Grant us, we pray,
more saving light in our minds,

more heavenly love in our wills and
affections,
more constant readiness to obedience
in our hearts,
that we might be more pure, and
more cleansed from the pollution of
sin.

May your Holy Spirit purify and cleanse
us

by strengthening our souls for all holy
duties and against all actual sins.

Having given us a principle of purity and
holiness,

may your Spirit act in our
duties of obedience
and in opposition to sin.

But if we sin and are defiled, how
shall we be cleansed?

You are faithful and just and
will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all
unrighteousness.

The blood of Jesus Christ your
Son

cleanses us from all sin.

And so we pray,
may the blood of Christ,
purge us from our sins,
by a special application of it
to our souls by your Holy
Spirit.

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

MARCH 8, 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: PSALM 100:1-4

[1]Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! [2]Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! [3]Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. [4]Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

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:** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing Trinity Hymnal #164

OLD TESTAMENT READING/CALL TO CONFESSION: ISAIAH 5:1-7

[1]Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. [2]He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

[3]And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. [4]What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

[5]And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. [6]I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. [7]For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his

pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: II CORINTHIANS 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

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:** Jesus Paid It All Trinity Hymnal #308

SERMON: "THE TRUE VINE"
John 15:1-11 Rev. Alex Mark

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING:** Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death see page 7

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

In Christ Alone, Stanza 1

*In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—here in the love of Christ I stand*

.

**Congregation Standing*

Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death

Words and Music by
Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Jordan Kauflin,
Matt Merker and Matt Papa

1. What is our hope in life and death? Christ a-
2. What truth can calm the trou-bled soul? God is
3. Un - to the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, He

lone, Christ a-lone. What is our on - ly con - fi -
good, God is good. Where is His grace and good-ness
lives; Christ He lives!" And what re - ward will hea - ven

dence? That our souls to Him be - long. Who holds our
known? In our great Re - deem - er's blood. Who holds our
bring? Ev - er - last - ing life with Him. There we will

days with - in His hand? What comes, a - part from His com -
faith when fears a - rise? Who stands a - bove the storm - y
rise to meet the Lord, Then sin and death will be de -

mand? And what will keep us to the end? The love of
trial? Who sends the waves that bring us nigh Un - to the
stroyed, And we will feast in end-less joy, When Christ is

Refrain
Christ, in which we stand. O sing ha - le -
shore, the rock of Christ? O sing hal - le -
ours for - ev - er - more!

lu - jah! Our hope springs e - ter - nal; O sing hal - le -

lu - jah! Now and ev - er we con -

Repeat Refrain last time
fess Christ our hope in life and death.

MORNING SERMON TEXT

[1]“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. [2]Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. [3]Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. [4]Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. [5]I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. [6]If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. [7]If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [8]By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. [9]As the Father has loved me, so I have 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.”—John 15:1-11

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

I. A CROP FAILURE

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES (CONT'D)

II. IMAGERY FULFILLED

III. FOUND IN CHRIST

The True Vine

(a devotional on John 15:1-11 from www.ligonier.org)

Continuing the Farewell Discourse, Jesus speaks to the eleven as the hour of His death draws closer. As we saw yesterday, Jesus' ministry is now focused on the disciples. Along with this comes a new emphasis regarding His relationship with His people. Christ increasingly presents Himself as being at one with them, thereby reassuring them of His presence and challenging them to abide in Him — without whom abundant life as the new Israel would be impossible.

It is during this farewell discourse that we come to the seventh "I AM" statement, "I am the true vine" (John 15:1). In order for Jesus to become the Mediator for His people, He had to become so identified with them that when you see Jesus, you also see His people. The vine, as a horticultural metaphor, demonstrates Jesus' identification. The Bible says in Psalm 80 and Isaiah 5 that Israel is the vine and that God is the vinedresser. When Jesus says, "I am the true vine," He is really saying, "I am the true Israel." He is saying that He is the embodiment of all that Israel should be. "Should be" because, as is well known, Israel did not faithfully execute her mission as God's representative. Her sins and lack of repentance prevented her from being a faithful witness (see Ps. 80 and Isa. 5 again). But Jesus is not like that. He is the true Israel, and He faithfully executes all of God's purposes.

Jesus goes on to explain that He is a vine whose branches must bear fruit or they will be cut off by the Father (John 15:2). The branches that do bear fruit will be pruned to increase their yield (15:2). The branches of the true vine, like the branches of a grape vine, must be pruned so that the harvest will be more abundant. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches (15:5). Through hardship, discipline, and suffering, we are pruned so that our fruit will be ever greater and ever sweeter. The Father prunes us if we abide in Christ. Those that do not abide are the branches that are cut off (15:6).

If we abide in Christ and bear fruit we can know that we are truly His. Some are cut off because they are not His — they try to attach themselves to Christ without abiding in Him through faith. But those who bear fruit are His, and they have been cleansed by Him (15:3). They will not be cut off. Those who bear no fruit are just dead wood and were never truly a part of the vine to begin with.

We know that a man is justified by faith alone, but the faith that justifies is never alone. The Bible again and again tells us that true faith evidences itself in the fruit of good works. Examine your faith to see if it is producing good works and thank God for the pruning He does to produce them.