



FIRST SCOTS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Of Beaufort*

— PCA —

**THE LORD'S DAY**

**March 15, 2026**

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

[www.firstscotsbeaufort.org](http://www.firstscotsbeaufort.org)  
335 Sams Point Road, Beaufort, SC 29907  
[admin@firstscotsbeaufort.org](mailto:admin@firstscotsbeaufort.org) | (843)379-0134

# Prayer of Preparation: “Prayer Before the Sermon”

## by The Westminster Assembly

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

Lord God, confident of your mercy to your whole church,  
and the acceptance of our persons,  
through the merits of our High Priest,  
the Lord Jesus,  
we profess that it is the desire of our souls  
to have fellowship with you in the  
reverend use of your holy ordinances,  
And to that purpose, we pray earnestly  
for your grace and effectual assistance  
to sanctify your holy Sabbath, the  
Lord’s day,  
in all its duties, public and private.  
We pray this for ourselves and for all  
other congregations,  
according to the riches and excellency  
of the gospel,  
which this day is celebrated and  
enjoyed.

Lord God, we have been unprofitable  
hearers of your word in times past,  
and now cannot of ourselves receive,  
as we should, the deep things of God,  
the mysteries of Jesus Christ, which  
require spiritual discernment.  
And so we pray that you, O Lord,  
who make teaching profitable, would  
be graciously pleased to pour out the  
Spirit of grace upon the means of  
grace.  
We pray this that we might attain such a  
measure of the excellence of the  
knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord,

and, in him, of the things which  
belong to our peace,  
that we may count all things as dross  
compared to him;  
and that we, tasting the firstfruits of  
glory, may long for a fuller and more  
perfect communion with him.

We pray you would in a special way equip  
your servant (now called to dispense the  
bread of life to your family)  
with wisdom, fidelity, zeal, and  
eloquence,  
that he may divide your word aright to  
each of us,  
in evidence and demonstration of the  
Spirit and power.

We pray that you would circumcise our  
ears and hearts  
to hear, love, and receive with  
meekness the word.

Make us good soil to receive the good  
seed of the word,  
and strengthen us against the  
temptations of Satan, the cares of the  
world, the hardness of our own hearts  
and whatever may hinder us from  
profitable hearing.

We pray that Christ may be so formed in  
us, and live in us, that all our thoughts  
may be brought into captivity with him,  
and our hearts established in every good  
work for ever.

# THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

## MARCH 15, 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 Worshippers in Training (WIT) room or the nursery.*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Alex Mark  
Senior Pastor

### **CALL TO WORSHIP: ISAIAH 55:10-11**

[10]“For as the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, [11]so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

### **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:**

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Trinity Hymnal #305

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

[1]Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; [2]but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. [3]He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. [4]The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. [5]Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON: ISAIAH 27:2-6**

[2]In that day, “A pleasant vineyard, sing of it! [3]I, the LORD, am its keeper; every moment I water it. Lest anyone punish it, I keep it night and day; [4]I have no wrath. Would that I had thorns and briers to battle! I would march against them, I would burn them up together. [5]Or let them lay hold of my protection, let them make peace

with me, let them make peace with me.” [6]In days to come, Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, QUESTION #58**

**Question 58:** What is required in the fourth commandment?

**Answer:** The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his Word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to himself.

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

**OFFERING:**

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION:** Take My Life, and Let It Be Trinity Hymnal #585

**SERMON:** “GOD’S PRUNING” Rev. Alex Mark  
John 15:1-11

**\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING:** Abide with Me: Fast Falls the Eventide Trinity Hymnal #402

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:** Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

---

*\*Congregation Standing*

# 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. PRUNED BY GOD**

# MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES (CONT'D)

---

## II. PRUNED UNTO FAITHFULNESS

## III. PRUNED FOR JOY

# Proving Our Discipleship for God's Glory

(a devotional on John 15:8 from [www.ligonier.org](http://www.ligonier.org))

Jesus “has no one in his flock who does not bear fruit to the glory of God.” This comment by John Calvin on today’s passage summarizes one of the major points that Christ makes in the parable of the vine in John 15:1–11. Spiritual fruitfulness marks the true Christian, for it proves that we are Christ’s disciples (v. 8). Many people profess to follow Jesus and yet show no desire to keep His commandments. Those who continue in such a state prove themselves to be false branches who were never united to Christ to begin with. As such, they are dead and fit only for destruction (v. 6). True Christians will bear the fruit of good works of service to God and neighbor. Those who bear little fruit God will prune so that they bear more fruit (v. 2). He will discipline us, even allowing suffering in our lives, so that we will bear a more abundant crop.

This fruit-bearing, Jesus tells us in today’s passage, is ultimately for the glory of God (v. 8). The love we show to others through our works of service to the Lord is not an end in itself. We do not do good works merely to do good works, though they are essential. Instead, our good works have as their end goal the glory of our Creator. The Father, Jesus indicates in John 15:8, is glorified by our fruitfulness. But why does our fruitfulness glorify Him? Because in the final analysis, God is the One who bears the fruit through us.

We find hints of this in verse 7, where Jesus connects our abiding in Him with answered prayer. Only God, of course, can answer prayer, so when we pray for fruitfulness and fruitfulness ensues, it is because God has done the work. He may use us, but He is the One who finally makes it happen. Moreover, Jesus tells us in John 14:12–17 that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will do greater works than He did on earth. But as we noted in our study of that text, these greater works that we do in the new covenant era are not works from which He is absent. The ascended Christ is actually doing these works in and through us. Though He is present in heaven according to His humanity, He is empowering His people by His Spirit and is present with them by the same Spirit, such that the righteous deeds of the church are ultimately the righteous deeds of Christ. And since whatever the Son does, the Father also does (5:19), this means that our good works are the works of the Father as well. The Father is glorified by our fruit because He is the One who produces the fruit in and through us.

Expositing the parable of the vine, Dr. R.C. Sproul writes in his commentary [on] John: “As Christians, we will bear fruit, but it will vary in degree. The closer we stay to Christ, the more fruit we will bear.” Since our fruitfulness glorifies God, we should seek to bear as much fruit as possible. As we meditate on Christ’s words, seek to serve Him, and repent when we sin, our fruitfulness will increase, and the glory of God will be more fully seen in our lives.

# THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

## March 15, 2026

*Hymn Sing*

Rev. Alex Mark  
Senior Pastor

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 95:6-7a

[6]Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! [7]For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

*\*Opening Hymn:*

God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory

Trinity Hymnal #122

*Scripture Reading:*

Acts 4:1-22

*Evening Prayer*

*Scripture Reading & Sermon:*

“THE FALL”  
Genesis 3:7-13

Rev. Alex Mark

*\*Hymn of Preparation:*

Before the Throne of God Above  
*Stanzas 1 and 2*

see pages 12 & 13

*Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

*\*Hymn of Gratitude:*

Before the Throne of God Above  
*Stanza 3*

see pages 12 & 13

*\*Benediction*

---

*\*Congregation Standing*

# GENESIS 3:7-13

---

[7]Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. [8]And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. [9]But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" [10]And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." [11]He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" [12]The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." [13]Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

## EVENING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

---

### I. THE CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS OF SIN

# EVENING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES (CONT'D)

---

## II. THE EXTRAVAGANT MERCY OF GOD

# Before the Throne of God Above

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,  
Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. Hebrews 4:14*

1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect  
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair, and tells me of the guilt with  
3. Be - hold Him there, the ris - en Lamb! My per - fect, spot - less Right - eous

plea, a great High Priest whose name is "Love," who ev - er  
- in, up - ward I look and see Him there who made an  
- ness; the great un - change - a - ble I AM, the King of

lives and pleads for me. My name is grav - en on His hands;  
end to all my sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died,  
glo - ry and of grace! One with Him - self I can - not die;

my name is writ - ten on His heart; I know that  
my sin - ful soul is count - ed free; for God the  
my soul is pur - chased with His blood; my life is

Words: Charitie Lees Bancroft, alternate lyrics by Vikki Cook; Music: Vikki Cook

© 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP) All rights reserved. Administrated worldwide  
at CapitolCMGPublishing.com, excluding the UK which is adm. by Integrity Music,  
part of the David C. Cook family. Used by permission.

while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence de -  
Just is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don  
hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav - ior and my

-part; no tongue can bid me thence de - part.  
me; to look on Him and par - don me.  
God; with Christ my Sav - ior and my God!

# The Truth Comes Out

(a devotional on Genesis 3:11-13 from [www.ligonier.org](http://www.ligonier.org))

In today's passage, the confrontation between the Lord and our first parents continues, with Adam and Eve admitting their transgression. Yet even though they are given the chance to confess their guilt humbly, we will see that in describing their sin, both the man and his wife seem more concerned with blameshifting than with casting themselves on God's mercy.

Having heard from Adam that he was hiding because he was afraid, the Lord probes further, asking the man if he had eaten from the forbidden tree (v. 11). His question does not throw doubt on His omniscience; rather, God's inquiry reveals His mercy. Adam was given the chance to admit his sin when his Creator asked him where he was hiding (v. 10). But Adam did not avail himself of this opportunity, and so God prods him further, desiring to hear him confess his guilt.

However, even when given a second opportunity to repent, the man does not admit his full culpability but instead shifts the blame to his wife. True, he admits eating the forbidden fruit, but before doing so he lays responsibility upon the woman, and even God Himself, for the situation. In saying "the woman whom you gave to be with me" (v. 12), Adam, as Calvin writes, "malignantly transfers to God the charge which he ought to have brought against himself."

When it becomes apparent Adam is not going to admit his full complicity, the Lord asks Eve a similar question. Like her husband, she describes events accurately, but she does not tell the whole story. Eve also transfers the blame to someone else — the serpent who deceived her (v. 13; 1 Tim. 2:14). Nevertheless, she freely chose to do what was forbidden and was therefore responsible for her actions.

God does not acknowledge their excuses, and His silence is deafening. He has given them several chances to confess their full guilt, and they have declined. In His mercy, the Lord continues to pursue us so that we might turn to Him in full appreciation of the weight of our guilt. Yet He will not do so forever (Gen. 6:3). Let us therefore be quick to confess our sin, lest the Lord hide His face from us.

It is in fallen human nature to shift the blame for sin to someone else. However, as John Calvin writes, "incitements and instigations from other quarters may impel us, yet the unbelief which seduces us from obedience to God is within us." When we sin the fault is wholly our own. Though we know God will never remove His mercy from His elect, the elect never take this truth for granted (Rom. 6:1–2). If you have blamed someone else for a sin, repent today.