



FIRST SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Of Beaufort

PCA

THE LORD'S DAY

December 28, 2025

Sunday School: 9:30AM (all ages)

Morning Worship Service: 10:40AM

Evening Worship Service: 5PM

www.firstscotsbeaufort.org

335 Sams Point Road, Beaufort, SC 29907

admin@firstscotsbeaufort.org | (843)379-0134

Prayer of Preparation: “Prayer for the New Year”

Adapted from the *Valley of Vision*

O Lord,
Length of days means nothing to me
unless those days are lived in Your presence,
spent in Your service,
and devoted to Your glory.

Give me grace that goes before me,
grace that walks beside me,
grace that follows after me—
grace that sustains, sanctifies, and
strengthens me
every hour of every day.

Do not let me live even a moment apart from
You.

Teach me to depend on Your Spirit
to shape my thoughts,
guard my words,
direct my steps,
bless my work,
strengthen even the smallest spark of faith,
and stir in me a deep desire
to praise You,
bear witness to Your love,
and seek the advance of Your kingdom.

As I step into the unknown waters of this
year,
You, O Father, are my safe harbor.

You, O Son, are my guide and captain.
You, O Holy Spirit, fill my sails and carry
me forward.

Lead me home to heaven—
ready and watchful,
my lamp burning,
my ears attentive to Your voice,
my heart filled with love,
my soul unbound and free.

Grant me Your grace to make me holy,
Your comfort to strengthen me,
Your wisdom to teach me,
Your mighty hand to guide me,
Your counsel to direct me,
Your Word to correct me,
and Your presence to steady me.

Let Your holy fear shape my reverence,
and let Your victories be my joy.

Amen.

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

DECEMBER 28, 2025

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

Pastor Alex Mark
Senior Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 32:11

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

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:** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Trinity Hymnal #598

OLD TESTAMENT READING/CALL TO CONFESSION: PSALM 51:1-12

[1]Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. [2]Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! [3]For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. [4]Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. [5]Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. [6]Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. [7]Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. [8]Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. [9]Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. [10]Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. [11]Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. [12]Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: GALATIANS 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING:

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:** All Glory Be to Christ see page 8

SERMON: "HIGHER" Mr. Henry Holmberg
Luke 10:17-20 RUF-Anderson

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING:** And Can It Be That I Should Gain Trinity Hymnal #455

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, #457, St. 2

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wan-d'ring from the fold of God:
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

**Congregation Standing*

MORNING SERMON TEXT

[17]The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” [18]And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. [19]Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. [20]Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”—Luke 10:17-20

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

REJOICE IN:

I. CHRIST’S POWER IN US (v. 17)

II. THE HIGHER JOY OF CHRIST’S REDEMPTIVE PLAN (v. 18-19)

III. THE HIGHEST JOY OF OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST (v. 20)

All Glory Be to Christ

(Tune of Auld Lang Syne)

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive

To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!

His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
All glory be to Christ!

His will be done
His kingdom come
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love

Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!

His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
All glory be to Christ!

When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new.

Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall ere his people be
All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ

His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
All glory be to Christ!

Words by Dustin Kensrue, arrangement by
Kings Kaleidoscope / © Dead Bird
Theology (ASCAP), It's All About Jesus
Music (ASCAP). Used under CCLI License
CCLI License 20368785

The Greatest Joy

(a devotional on Luke 10:1-20 from www.ligonire.org)

When Peter exhorts us to endure our suffering in his first epistle, he tells us to be “like newborn infants” and to “long for the pure spiritual milk,” that by it we “may grow up to salvation” (2:2). This command does not contradict the emphasis in other passages on the importance of solid food — the meatier aspects of biblical doctrine that build on foundational Gospel truths (Heb. 5:11–14). Instead, Peter is reminding us of our need to drink the elementary teachings of our faith again and again even as we chew on the deep truths he expounds in the rest of his epistle. Just as mature adults incorporate milk in their diet along with solid foods, so too must we drink our spiritual milk as we digest more complex teachings of Scripture.

Today’s passage describes how our joy is to be found in one of these basic foods. Having been sent out to preach the Gospel and heal the sick (Luke 10:1–12), the seventy-two disciples return to Jesus overjoyed at the success of their ministry. In fact, even the demons have been subject to them in Christ’s name (v. 17). However, though He acknowledges the progress of their ministry and the power of their authority (vv. 18–19), He does not instruct them to find their joy in strength and success. The servants of Christ must rejoice in something far more fundamental, namely, that our names are written in heaven (v. 20). Our free forgiveness based on the price Jesus paid at Calvary is the font of all true joy.

It is easy to miss this truth because we tend to revel in outward success and power. Certainly, success and power are not bad in themselves, but we tend to seek our satisfaction in them because they can satiate our sinful desires. While they do bring pleasure, that pleasure can be at the expense of our souls. To confuse joy in the Lord with temporal pleasures is to follow the ways of the world and futilely pursue happiness in created things and not the Creator.

Christians take joy in the eternal pleasures that build on the foundation of forgiveness in Christ. If guilt is robbing us of our joy, this joy can be restored if we return to the cross in repentance and have God’s peace assure us of our salvation once more (1 John 3:19–24).

Those of us who have been Christians for a long time often forget the joy that comes when we first confess Christ and realize that our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. If you are finding it hard to rejoice in the Lord, take time today to consider the greatness of your salvation in Jesus and remember the profound benefits of being forgiven and freed from the power of sin. If you do not know these benefits, repent and submit to Christ for salvation this day.

Victory Over Satan

(a devotional on Luke 10:17-20 from www.ligonier.org)

Our adversary the Devil may operate within the limits God has set, but that does not mean his threat to us is not real, nor does it mean there is no true battle going on between the forces of light and darkness. Nevertheless, because the Almighty is sovereign even over Satan, we can be assured that our enemy will not win in the end and that we have nothing to fear if we are on the Lord's side.

The New Testament presents this truth in a number of ways, primarily when it tells us that Jesus delivered the fatal blow to the Devil on the cross (Col. 1:13–15). We also see the idea that though Satan has been mortally wounded, he is still prowling about trying to tear down the church (1 Peter 5:8). Christ has inaugurated His kingdom, but He has not yet consummated it, and the Devil will assault us until that final day.

As such, the church is tasked with a “mop-up operation” of sorts as we preach the gospel and look to see God's kingdom bear visibly on all aspects of life. This is a truth found in today's passage and the report of the seventy-two followers of Jesus appointed to go into the towns of Israel before Him during His earthly ministry. Just as the finger of God has been displayed in Christ's ministry of healing and exorcisms (Luke 11:20), so too have the disciples seen the Spirit at work in making even the demons subject to the people of God (Luke 10:17). Jesus replies, telling them that He has seen Satan fall from heaven (v. 18). The kingdom of God has been on the march, and when it moves, the forces of hell are shaken to the core. Demonic thrones are overturned, the Light of the World dispels the darkness of sin and evil, and Satan and his minions lose the authority they have to hold the church of Jesus Christ in bondage.

The very gates of hell continue to crumble as the gospel goes forth today, proving Matthew Henry's comment that “Christ foresaw that the preaching of the gospel would wherever it went pull down Satan's kingdom.” As the church we have been given the authority to “tread on serpents” (v. 19) — to participate in Jesus' crushing of the Devil (Gen. 3:15) — and no matter what the Enemy throws at us, we the Lord's people will triumph in the end.

Are you afraid of the Devil? He is a mighty foe, but we have been given the mighty sword of the Word of God that has “divine power to destroy strongholds” (2 Cor. 10:4). We wage war against Satan by praying for our enemies and recalling the promises and warnings of Scripture that keep us from evil. Let us always remember the authority we have in Christ by His Spirit and be comforted that Satan's worst is no match for our Father's love.

THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

December 28, 2025

Hymn Sing

Pastor Alex Mark
Senior Pastor

Call to Worship

John 4:23-24

[23]"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. [24]God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

**Opening Hymn:*

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Trinity Hymnal #1

Scripture Reading:

Luke 23:26-56

Evening Prayer

Scripture Reading & Sermon: "HOW THE GRINCH ALMOST
ALMOST STOLE THANKSGIVING"
Psalm 100

Mr. Henry Holmberg
RUF-Anderson

**Closing Hymn*

Rejoice the Lord Is King

Trinity Hymnal #310

**Benediction*

**Congregation Standing*

PSALM 100

A PSALM FOR GIVING THANKS. [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! [5]For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

EVENING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

WE SHOULD GIVE THANKS BECAUSE OF:

I. WHO GOD IS (v. 1-3)

II. WHAT GOD DOES FOR US (v. 4-5)

Rejoicing Unto the Lord

(a devotional on Psalm 100 from www.ligonier.org)

Among its other purposes, the book of Psalms serves as the hymnbook for the people of God. Its contents reveal the kinds of prayers that please the Lord. These prayers are also intended to be sung. Psalm 100 is a hymn of thanksgiving and praise unto our Creator, and its call for the people to sing unto the Lord makes it a fine call to worship as well.

Remarkably, the psalm opens with a call for all the earth to "make a joyful noise to the LORD (v. 1). Because the Old Testament is so concerned with the history of God's relationship to ancient Israel, it can be easy for us to assume that the ancient Israelites had no real concern for the salvation of the nations around them. Without a doubt, the prophets do condemn Israel for being a poor witness to the Gentiles, for not fulfilling her call to be a servant and light to the nations (Isa. 42:18-25). Nevertheless, there were always people in the old covenant community who sought to bring the worship of the one true God to the nations.

This is confirmed in Psalm 100:3, which states, "Know that the LORD, he is God!" In our English translations of the Old Testament, the Hebrew name Yahweh, which is the special covenant name of Israel's covenant Lord, is typically rendered using small caps: "LORD." To paraphrase, then, verse 3 is a call to the nations to understand that the Lord of Israel alone is God, that the Lord of Israel is not ruler over just that nation but is the only true God, the Creator of all. The Lord who has revealed the Scriptures treasured by the ancient Israelites is the only God. All people belong to Him by right, and those who will trust and believe in Him will belong to Him as His treasured possession. They and they alone will be His children (Deut. 7:6; John 1:11-13).\

In calling for the whole earth to "make a joyful noise to the Lord," the psalmist also exhorts Israelites and non-Israelites alike to "serve the Lord with gladness!" Those who have come to know the Lord God Almighty are His servants, but this is not a service of drudgery. Augustine of Hippo, in his sermon on Psalm 100, writes, "Fear not the servitude of that Lord: there will be no groaning there, no discontent, no indignation; no one seeketh to be sold to another master, since it is a sweet service, because we are all redeemed." To be a servant of the Lord is to hold a high and enjoyable calling. It is service to the One who never mistreats His servants but rather accepts them into His family.

In our day, the term servant often has negative connotations, at least in popular ways of thinking. We cannot import this negativity into what it means to be a servant of the Lord. To be the Lord's servant is to serve the Master who always has the best interests of His people in mind. To serve God is to serve the One who never fails to recognize even the smallest gesture of service to His name. It is a great thing indeed to serve the Lord with gladness.