



FIRST SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Of Beaufort

PCA

THE LORD'S DAY

September 14, 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: “Father of Mercies”

Father of Mercies,

You have established us in Christ—not to live alone, but together.

As a shepherd calls each sheep by name and yet gathers them into one flock, so You have called us—individually loved, corporately bound—to be Your people. How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity; and yet You know, Lord, how difficult that can be for us.

We confess that our love is often thin and our patience short.

Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us.

Give us the mind of Christ and fill our hearts with His agape—love that is present, truthful, and enduring.

Make us eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, quick to forgive, ready to bear with one another, covering a multitude of sins.

Where pride has hardened us, soften; where hurts have divided us, heal; where indifference has cooled us, kindle holy affection.

Lord Jesus, You gave us a new commandment—to love one another as You have loved us.

Make obedience to Your command be our joy.

Let our homes and this congregation be living pictures of Your grace, so that by our love all people would know we belong to You.

Grant that we would worship You with one accord, with one voice—so that our many parts would sound as one choir to the praise of Your glorious grace.

Knit us together in truth and tenderness, that the invisible God might be made visible in the way we walk with one another.

Do this, we pray, for the honor of the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit—one God, forever blessed.

Amen.

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 14, 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

Rev. Alex Mark
Senior Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 100:1-2

[1]Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! [2]Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

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:**

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Trinity Hymnal #100

OLD TESTAMENT READING/CALL TO CONFESSION:

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9 AND LEVITICUS 19:17-18

[4]"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. [5]You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. [6]And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. [7]You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. [8]You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. [9]You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

[17]"You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. [18]You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: ROMANS 5:8

--but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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:** Beneath the Cross of Jesus Trinity Hymnal #251

SERMON: “THE INVISIBLE GOD MADE VISIBLE” Rev. Alex Mark
John 13:33-35

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING:** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Trinity Hymnal #529

*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*

Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please contact us at admin@firstscotsbeaufort.org or call 843-379-0134 for more information. Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 10AM-2PM.

MORNING SERMON TEXT

[33]“Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ [34]A new commandment I give you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35]By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”—John 13:33-35

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

I. A NEW STANDARD

II. A NEW MOTIVATION

III. A NEW PURPOSE

A New Commandment

(a devotional on John 13:34-35 from www.ligonier.org)

On the night of His betrayal, Jesus knew that difficult days lay ahead for His disciples. They would face many trials, and they would not have the benefit of His presence in the flesh as they had for the three years prior. Where He was going—to heaven—they could not yet come (John 13:33), and they would need to know how to live in the physical absence of their Lord. So, Jesus took the opportunity on the night of the Last Supper to give extended instruction to His disciples on what to do once He had ascended to heaven.

First, our Lord gave them the example of service to one another (vv. 14–15). In today’s passage, we read Him elaborating on this by giving them a “new commandment” to love one another (v. 34). For Jesus to call this a new commandment seems odd at first. After all, centuries earlier, the people of God had been commanded to love each other: “You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev. 19:18). What, then, did our Savior mean when He said loving one another is a new commandment?

Dr. R.C. Sproul notes that in context, Jesus spoke these words just after Judas betrayed Him (John 13:21–30). Thus, the kind of love He enjoined upon His followers is the opposite of what Judas displayed. Jesus, Dr. Sproul writes in his commentary John, “demanded from His disciples and all who would follow Him a love that has no place for treason.” No doubt this is correct. We must also note, however, that in the same context Jesus also predicts that Peter would deny Him (John 13:36–38), which was also a betrayal of sorts. Coupled with Jesus’ elaborating that the new love commandment means loving each other as Jesus has loved us (v. 34), we see that the kind of love Jesus commands is one that endures even when someone wrongs us or even betrays us. Jesus did not stop loving Peter after his betrayal but laid down His life for Peter’s forgiveness. In like manner, though we cannot atone for sin, we are to show steadfast love to other believers.

This kind of sacrificial love that endures even when one is wronged is the mark of discipleship before the watching world (v. 35). When Christians love each other as Jesus commanded, the world will know we are His disciples. John Calvin comments, “Whoever, then, desires to be truly a disciple of Christ, and to be acknowledged by God, let him form and direct his whole life to love the brethren, and let him pursue this object with diligence.”

Love for those who wrong us does not mean enduring significant abuse. The way we love someone who has wronged us is not identical to the way we love someone who has done nothing but good to us. Nevertheless, in both cases we are called not to stop loving other believers. Let us ask God to give us the strength to love our fellow believers truly so that we might be a witness to Him in the world.

Loving One Another

(a devotional on John 13:31-35 from www.ligonier.org)

Jesus taught that love for Him transcends familial ties so that those who are His family are those who love Him and show it by doing His will (Matt. 12:46–50). So too must love for Jesus knit His disciples together as true brothers and sisters. This is the point of today's passage. In fact, love for our fellow Christians shows the world we are disciples of the Savior (John 13:35).

Jesus says the command for believers to love one another is a new command (v. 34), but we would be mistaken to think love between members of the covenant community was unknown prior to His incarnation. Any faithful Jew from the time of Moses onward knew he was obligated to refrain from vengeance and grudges, and to love his neighbor as himself (Lev. 19:18). Nevertheless, there are two aspects of the new covenant that make love different, or more clearly understood as the will of God for His people.

First, we must love other believers just as our Lord has loved us (John 13:34). Certainly, we cannot atone for the sins of others, and therefore we cannot love others in the exact same manner as Christ loves us. Still, like Him we can be willing to lay down our lives for our friends, which is the greatest love of all (John 15:13). We can also follow Jesus' example and empathize with others in their weaknesses (Heb. 4:15). All of us must do whatever we can to make our local churches places of refuge for repentant sinners where they can find forgiveness, love, and encouragement. If a penitent believer who has sinned heinously cannot find any friends in the church, we are not keeping this commandment.

Second, our love for other Christians must mirror the love of the Father for the Son and the Son for the Father (John 15:10). Living under the new covenant, we have a clearer revelation of our Triune God who encompasses within Himself diversity (three persons) and unity (one essence). Like the Father and Son, the diversity evident in the body of Christ must not abolish our unity of purpose nor separate us into factions who war over relatively minor differences of opinion. True love for other believers unifies the diverse church.

True Christian love will unify believers, but this unity will not be a unity that denies the truth. Christian love and truth are inseparable; thus, we do need to separate from those who have abandoned the fundamental tenets of the Gospel. Unfortunately, we all too often seek any excuse beyond this to break away from other believers. All of us ought to befriend fellow believers who affirm the fundamentals of the faith even if they are not from our denomination or tradition.

THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

September 14, 2025

Hymn Sing

Rev. Alex Mark
Senior Pastor

Call to Worship

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein...

**Opening Hymn:*

How Great Thou Art

Trinity Hymnal #44

Scripture Reading:

Luke 17:1-19

Evening Prayer

Scripture Reading & Sermon: "THE DOMINION MANDATE"
Genesis 1:26-31

Rev. Alex Mark

**Closing Hymn*

For the Beauty of the Earth

Trinity Hymnal #116

**Benediction*

**Congregation Standing*

GENESIS 1:26-31

[26]Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” [27]So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

[28]And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” [29]And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. [30]And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. [31]And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

EVENING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

I. HAVE DOMINION

II. BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY AND FILL THE EARTH

III. RELY ON AND ENJOY GOD'S PROVISION

IV. HONOR THE DIGNITY OF GOD'S DESIGN

V. ENJOY THE BLESSING OF GOD

The Glory of God Through Man

(a devotional on Genesis 1:27-28 from www.ligonier.org)

When it comes to divine glory, it can be easy to miss one of the primary ways that the Lord has purposed to show His glory in our world. We are speaking, of course, of humanity. God intended from the very beginning to display His glory in and through the work of men and women.

Genesis 1:27–28 gives us the first evidence of this truth. As these verses indicate, our Creator made men and women in His image. Although there has been much discussion over the centuries as to the exact meaning of God’s image, we can at least say that our being made in the Lord’s image means that we are more like Him than the animals and the other things in creation are. Like God, we have minds and wills. We are also able to create tools, art, and so forth. We are able to reflect the Creator to His creation because we are like Him, and in reflecting Him we are to reflect something of His glory.

How do we do this? The same verses give us an indication. Note that in Genesis 1:28, human beings are commanded to “have dominion . . . over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Men and women have been ordained as the Lord’s vice-regents, as rulers who are to take care of creation in submission to God’s ultimate rule as the Maker and Sovereign over all things.

In taking dominion, we show forth the sovereign glory of the Lord to creation. Moreover, dominion manifests itself in various ways. It includes being fruitful and multiplying, creating more images of God through bearing children and raising them to know the Word of God (Gen. 1:28; Deut. 6:4–9). Showing forth God’s glory through dominion involves working and keeping creation (Gen. 2:15), engaging in fruitful labor just as the Lord labors to preserve and sustain all things. This labor consists of our ordinary vocations but also establishes broader disciplines such as science. As Dr. R.C. Sproul often observed in looking at Genesis 2, Adam was the first scientist because in naming the animals, he was the first to engage in taxonomy, the classification of living things that is so important to the study of biology.

Finally, we should not overlook the ways that human beings reflect the glory of God by creating beauty. The very first people in Scripture identified as filled with the Spirit were the craftsmen Bezalel and Oholiab. They were tasked with making the tabernacle and all its elements, which featured vibrant colors and precious metals, all of which pointed to the beauty and glory of God (Ex. 31:1–11).

In the fall of man, the image of God in us was marred but not lost. As the Lord is repairing His image in us through Christ, our original call to reflect God’s glory to creation is restored, and we are tasked to rule, to labor, to create art, and to do many other things so that the glory of the Lord may be reflected in us. As we serve God and seek to honor Him where He has called us to work, we show His glory to the world.