

Announcements

Today:

- Doctrine Class will meet Wednesday at 7:00 PM at the Hay's house.
- Sunday School will resume January 7, 2018 with a new series
- A reminder that morning worship will be at the Friends School on Dec. 31

Next week:

- On Sunday, Dec. 24, we will host our annual Lessons and Carols Service at 6 PM at Celebration Hall. All family, friends, and neighbors of our congregation are invited. If you are a communicant member who would like to be considered to read a lesson, please speak to Elder Tim Shafer.

Prayers for God's Kingdom

"God will either give us what we ask or give us what we would have asked if we knew everything he knew." (Tim Keller)

Resurrection Family & Ministry

- Members: Tom and Sue Jackson
- Specifics: Phyllis Dreibelbis, in intensive care in the hospital, and for Skip
- Witness: ...pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Matt. 9:38)

The Wider Church

- Local: Pray for other evangelical congregations/ministries
- Presbytery: Faith OPC (Fawn Grove)
- Home Missions: Larry and Kalynn Oldaker (Huron, Ohio)

Only the most dedicated fishermen are on the pier as the weather turns colder, but Larry continues to make contacts where he can, including the local coffee shop and the campus of Oberlin College. A women's book study has four locations, reaching far beyond the congregation. One woman recently began attending worship at Grace Fellowship OPC. Several music students from Oberlin attend worship and participate in outreach efforts. The Oldakers recently hosted a patio jazz concert at their home. Cool weather kept attendance low, but several contacts were made. Preparations are being made for a string quartet event at the catering facility where the group meets for worship. Pray that these and other faithful efforts will bring new people to worship.

- Foreign Missions: 'JM' and 'BM' and team
Pray for the Spirit to attest to the words of Scripture as students hear them
- Persecuted Church: Pray for Christians Forced to Reject Their Faith
Government officials in Jiangxi province have pledged to help Christians living in poverty under the condition that they reject their faith, follow communism and replace their pictures of Jesus with pictures of President Xi Jinping. While authorities claim the Christians are voluntarily replacing their religious images, believers have reportedly been visited by Communist Party officials checking to make sure the images have been replaced. These recent actions are linked to new regulations on religion that were implemented in the name of national security. The regulations prohibit unregistered religious groups from teaching about religion or participating in meetings outside the country. In addition, an ordinance scheduled to take effect in February will impose hefty fines on organizers of unapproved religious activities, another sign of increasing scrutiny of Christians. Pray for Chinese believers as they face increased persecution.



*She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins."*

Worshiping the Triune God in
STATE COLLEGE & CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

BIBLICAL PREACHING ∞ HISTORIC WORSHIP
SERIOUS CHRISTIANITY FOR REAL LIFE
The Lord's Day, December 17, 2017

The Order of Morning Worship

☞ 10.30 AM ☞

Preparation

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude & Meditation

"Sleepers, Awake!"
(J. S. Bach/arr. D. Everson)

Worship

* Call to Worship & Salutation

* Prayer of Adoration

* Hymn of Adoration

Adoration
Psalm 25:1-5
"Of the Father's Love Begotten" (#162)

The Revelation of God

Confession of Our Duty

Prayer of Confession

Promise of the Gospel

Confession

[insert]

Thanksgiving & Supplication

* Gloria Patri

* Psalm of Thanksgiving

Prayers for God's Kingdom

Offering

* Doxology

#734
Psalm 90B [insert]

#731

Hearing & Proclamation

* Prayer for Illumination

* Scripture Reading(s)

The Sermon

Matthew 2:13-18, Exodus 2:1-10
"The Baby Deliverer"

Response & Blessing

* Hymn of Response *"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor" (#230)*

* The Benediction

** Those who are able should stand.*

The Order of Evening Worship

☞ 6.00 PM ☞

Preparation

Welcome & Prayer Requests

Prelude & Meditation

"Savior of the Nations, Come"
(arr. Helmut Walcha)

Worship

* Call to Worship & Salutation

* Hymn of Adoration

* Prayer of Adoration

Adoration
Isaiah 55:1-3a
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (insert)

The Confession of Faith

of the Church Universal

of the Reformation Church

Confession

The Apostles' Creed [insert]
Shorter Catechism #76 - 78 [insert]

Thanksgiving & Supplication

* Psalm of Thanksgiving

Prayers for God's Kingdom

Psalm 24B [insert]

Hearing & Proclamation

* Prayer for Illumination

* Scripture Reading(s)

The Sermon

Isaiah 9:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25
"Jesus, Savior, God with Us"

Response & Blessing

* Hymn of Response

* The Benediction

"To Us a Child of Hope is Born" (insert)

** Those who are able should stand.*

The Morning Meditation

*“Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying,
“awake, Jerusalem, at last!”*

— Phillip Nicolai (THR #317)

The Confession of Our Duty

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM
PART 3: MAN’S GRATITUDE (WEEKS 32 – 52)
LORD’S DAY 47 - 49

122. What Does the First Request Mean?

Hallowed be thy name means,

Help us to really know you, to bless, worship, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth.

And it means,

Help us to direct all our living—what we think, say, and do—so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.

123. What Does the Second Request Mean?

Thy kingdom come means,

Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you. Keep your church strong, and add to it. Destroy the devil’s work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your Word. Do this until your kingdom is so complete and perfect that in it you are all in all.

124. What Does the Third Request Mean?

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven means,

Help us and all men to reject our own wills and to obey your will without any back talk. Your will alone is good. Help everyone carry out the work he is called to as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.

The Promise of the Gospel

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (*Psalms 103:11-12*)

The Evening Meditation

*“Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin’s Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.”*

— Martin Luther

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Reformation Confessions

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM – #76-78

76. Which is the ninth commandment?

The ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

77. What is required in the ninth commandment?

The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbor's good name, especially in witness-bearing.

78. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?

The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbor's good name.