

Announcements

We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us today. If you are a visitor, please feel free to pick up a blue informational folder outside the entrances to the sanctuary to learn more about our church. Also, please fill out a visitor card and place in the offering plate so we can have a record of your visit. Thank you.

Young at Heart. Young At Heart will be collecting candy and plastic eggs for Easter baskets and an Easter egg hunt at the Boys and Girls Club of Alamance County. Collection baskets are in the Fellowship Hall, on the side wall close to the coatrack. Please have your contributions at the church by March 25 when we have our next meeting. Monetary gifts are always welcome. Ann Baker from Meals On Wheels will be our guest speaker. The menu will be chicken, baked beans, green beans and salad. If you are willing to bring a dessert or plan to bring something else please let Margaret or Glenn know. Thanks to everyone that helps to make our YAH successful.

Missions Moment. The SALVATION ARMY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB has three full-time staff who daily bless over 100 youth in our county with programs designed to address a wide variety of needs. Volunteers are always welcome and currently contributions to fill 125 Easter baskets is another way we can support this ministry. Use the container provided in the Fellowship Hall for chocolate candy and plastic eggs or give money to Glenn or Margaret Owens.

Children's Ministry. Reminder to all nursery and children's church workers. There will be a lunch in your honor right after church on March 30th. AND to all of the church ... If you have any interest in serving in the nursery or children's church, please join us for lunch. We will be doing some training for teachers right after the lunch. Please RSVP to Chelle Spencer. Email: chelle.spencer@hotmail.com. Phone: 757-773-1965.

Ministry Information

Nursery

Today: Nicole Newton and Kristen Carter
Next Week: Karen Jones and Connie Bennett

Children's Church:

Today: Karen Jones and Lynn Limon
Next Week: Dot Hutelmyer and Christy Gregory

Counter:

Today: Gene Parks
Next Week: Glenn Owens

Deacon on Duty

Today: Glenn Owens
Next Week: Mark Vestal

Elder Greeter

Today: Jim Knox
Next Week: Bill Haynes

Tithes and Offerings for March 16:

General Fund \$ 4,749.08
Memorials for Eunice Baulding: \$ 565.00

(Given by: Elizabeth Barber, Bill and Ellen Huffman, Steve Kyaw, Jan Burwell, Bennett and Janice Richardson, Jim and Lola Knox, Ladies Bible Class, Singles and Doubles Class, William D Baulding, Joe and Kaye Murray, James Baulding, Arther Rogers and Family, Jack and Susan Phillips, Leo and Lorraine Hanus, Jondeen Terry, David and Frances Warren)

The Session

Moderator: Rev. Bryan Gregory
Vice Moderator: Gene Parks
Clerk: Jim Knox

2015: Jim Knox, Gene Parks
2017: Bill Haynes

The Diaconate

Chairman: Glenn Owens
Vice Chairman: Tim Bessette
Secretary: Doug Glass

2014: Glenn Owens, Mark Vestal
2015: Doug Glass, WD Yarbrough
2016: David Newton, Tim Bessette

Congregational Officers

Trustees: Jim Knox, Steve Kyaw, Gene Parks
Congregational Chairperson: Dot Hutelmyer
Congregational Treasurer: Laurene Howington
Congregational Secretary: Jim Knox

Women's Ministries

Women's Ministries Coordinator: Christy Gregory
Morning Bible Study Leader: Lillian Fuller

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Bryan Gregory
bryan@firstarpburlington.org

Music Director / Organist: Ed Limon
limonfam6@hotmail.com

Pianist: Julie Snow
jsnowmagic@aol.com

Administrative Assistant: Gloria Hendry
gloria@firstarpburlington.org

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First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2014

Preparation

Silent Meditation

Christian hope rests upon the fact not that evil can be ignored, or that it will simply fade away, but that it has been judged at the cross.

David Wells

We can never attach too much importance to the atoning death of Christ. It is the leading fact in the word of God, on which the eyes of our soul ought to be ever fixed. Without the shedding of his blood, there is no remission of sin. It is the cardinal truth on which the whole system of Christianity hinges. Without it the Gospel is an arch without a key-stone, a fair building without a foundation, a solar system without a sun... This, after all, is the master-truth of Scripture, that "Christ died for our sins." To this let us daily return. On this let us daily feed our souls.

J. C. Ryle (†1900 A.D.)

Prelude

Ed Limon

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Call to Worship — Romans 11

Minister Oh, the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?
Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?
For from him and through him and to him are all things.

People **To him be glory forever!**

Hymn of Preparation 199

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Lenox

Adoration

Invocation

Hymn of Adoration 76

O for a Thousand Tongues

Azmon

Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Most holy and merciful Father, we confess that we are prone to evil and slow to do that which is good. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Our thoughts are so often rationalized, and our hearts so easily deceived. Have mercy upon us, O God. Cleanse us from secret faults. Forgive our many sins. And then help us, we pray, to live in your light and walk in your ways. May the life of Christ be manifest in us by the power of your Holy Spirit, even as we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon — Daniel 9:9, 18

*But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving,
even though we have rebelled against him.
O my God, lean down and listen to me.
Open your eyes and see our despair.
We make this plea, not because we deserve help,
but because of your mercy.*

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

Proclamation

New Testament Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." ¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Minister The Word of the Lord
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem

Grace Greater Than Our Sin

Choir

(Dismissal to Children’s Church)

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 34:1-31

¹ Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land. ² And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her. ³ And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. ⁴ So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this girl for my wife." ⁵ Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came. ⁶ And Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. ⁷ The sons of Jacob had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men were indignant and very angry, because he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing must not be done. ⁸ But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him to be his wife. ⁹ Make marriages with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. ¹⁰ You shall dwell with us, and the land shall be open to you. Dwell and trade in it, and get property in it." ¹¹ Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. ¹² Ask me for as great a bride price and gift as you will, and I will give whatever you say to me. Only give me the young woman to be my wife." ¹³ The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully, because he had defiled their sister Dinah. ¹⁴ They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. ¹⁵ Only on this condition will we agree with you--that you will become as we are by every male among you being circumcised. ¹⁶ Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and become one people. ¹⁷ But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone." ¹⁸ Their words pleased Hamor and Hamor's son Shechem. ¹⁹ And the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob's daughter. Now he was the most honored of all his father's house. ²⁰ So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying, ²¹ "These men are at peace with us; let them dwell in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters as wives, and let us give them our daughters. ²² Only on this condition will the men agree to dwell with us to become one people--when every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised. ²³ Will not their livestock, their property and all their beasts be ours? Only let us agree with them, and they will dwell with us." ²⁴ And all who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city. ²⁵ On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males. ²⁶ They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem's house and went away. ²⁷ The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. ²⁸ They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field. ²⁹ All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the houses, they captured and plundered. ³⁰ Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household." ³¹ But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?"

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Bryan Gregory

God’s Grace to Broken People: The Tragedy of Dinah and Shechem

Dedication

Hymn of Response

175

Hallelujah, What a Savior!

Man of Sorrows

Affirmation of Faith — Heidelberg Catechism, 56

Minister What do you believe concerning the forgiveness of sins?

All

***That, for the sake of Christ’s reconciling work,
God will no more remember my sins
or the sinfulness with which I have to struggle all my life long;
but that he graciously imparts to me the righteousness of Christ
so that I may never come into condemnation.***

Prayer of Intercession and 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,
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.***

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

And Can It Be?

Julie Snow, Lauren Orr

Doxology

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude