Order of Sunday Evening Service
6:00 PM

Prelude

Reading from God's Holy Word 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Hymns
#163 As With Gladness Men of Old

#138 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Heidelberg Catechism **Lord's Day 15**

37. What do you confess when you say that he suffered?

During all the time he lived on earth, but especially at the end, Christ bore in body and soul the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race. Thus, by his suffering, as the only atoning sacrifice, he has redeemed our body and soul from everlasting damnation, and obtained for us the grace of God, righteousness, and eternal life.

38. Why did he suffer under Pontius Pilate as judge?

Though innocent, Christ was condemned by an earthly judge, and so he freed us from the severe judgment of God that was to fall on us.

39. Does it have a special meaning that Christ was crucified and did not die in a different way?

Yes. Thereby I am assured that he took upon himself the curse which lay on me, for a crucified one was cursed by God.

Prayers of the Congregation

- Adoration
- Confession
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication

The Christian Life *Finishing the Race*

Hymn
#552 On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Prayer

Announcements

Welcome. We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us today. 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 in the pew racks and place in the offering plate so we can have a record of your visit. Thank you.

A Word About Our Worship Service. Hymn of Praise: The Doxology is simply a "hymn of praise". In the hymn, we acknowledge the greatness of the triune God and His gracious provision of all things for us. We sing this after we offer God the first fruits of our labors, our financial tithes and offerings.

Sunday Nights @ First. Join us tonight at 6 PM. We will sing, pray and hear from God's Word. Our study will be: The Christian Life: "*Finishing the Race*."

Denominational Offering. Each year at Thanksgiving time the ARP Church collects a special offering to support some of the ministries of our denomination. This offering will be collected through TODAY. Brochures and contribution envelopes are located at the narthex entrances to the Sanctuary.

Women's Ministry Book Study. We will continue our study in *Extravagant Grace* on December 8 at 7 PM. We will have a Christmas Cooking Exchange!

Women's Ministry Morning Bible Study will enjoy a luncheon on December 9 at 11:15. Please contact Mandy Crotts for more information.

Annual Business Meeting. The Session has called the annual business meeting of the congregation for Sunday, December 13, 2015 after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt the 2016 Budget and hold elections for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, Congregational Chair and Treasurer. In order to participate in the nominations process, please pick up an Officer Nomination Procedures brochure at any Sanctuary entrance. Copies of the budget and the final ballot for officers will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Christmas Caroling. On Sunday, December 20, we will be taking our evening service out and about as we go caroling to our homebound members. We will leave our parking lot at 6 PM sharp to make our rounds and then return for cookies and hot drinks in the Fellowship Hall. Just as our recent visits and basket deliveries were a blessing, we hope this will be an important touch to our fellow members who are unable to attend worship with us each Sunday.

Christmas Eve. Make plans to join us on December 24 at 5 PM for our Christmas Eve service. The Lord's Supper will be served.

Ministry Information

Nursery: Today: Mary Jane Glass and Carol Erb
Next Week: Fran Haynes and Macon Baird
Counter: Today: Doug Glass
Next Week: David Newton
Deacon on Duty: Today: Doug Glass
Next Week: Stephen Robinson

Last Week's Tithes and Offerings:

General Fund:	$3728.43
Memorials (Bill Huffman)	$75.00
Thanksgiving Offering to Date	$733.00

Pastor: Rev. Bryan P. Crotts
pastor@firstarpburlington.org
336-944-2892

Admin Assistant: Gloria Hendry
gloria@firstarpburlington.org

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

Pianist: Julie Snow
jsnowmagic@aol.com

Church address:
2250 Saddle Club Road, Burlington, North Carolina 27215 / 336-584-6929
www.firstarpburlington.org

First Associate Reformed
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts
Psalm 95:7-8

The Lord's Day
December 6, 2015

Order of Worship

11:00 AM

Greeting of the Saints *The Congregation & Visitors*

Prelude *Choir/Handbell*
Antiphonal Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary for Silent Prayer

Votum Psalm 124:8

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Salutation Revelation 1:4-5

Call to Worship* Psalm 95

Hymn of Adoration*
#145 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation*

Affirmation of Faith The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Song of Praise*
#150 O Hearken Ye

Corporate Confession of Sin

O Lord, or God, our soul is like a house, small for you to enter, but we pray that you will enlarge it. It is in ruins, but we ask you to remake it. It contains much that you will not be pleased to see; this we know and do not hide. But, to whom can we cry except to you? Forgive us, O Lord. Cleanse us from our sins, O Lord, and our secret sins. What wretches we are! In your mercy, Lord our God, tell us what you are to us. "Say to our souls, I am your salvation" (Ps. 35:3). Come, O Lord, and stir our hearts. Call us back to yourself. Kindle your fire in us and carry us away. Be our fire and our sweetness. Let us love you and hasten to your side. In Jesus name, Amen. [Adapted from Augustine's Confessions, I, v-vi; VIII, iv]

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Scriptural Assurance of Pardon Isaiah 44:21-22

Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I have formed you; you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Hymn of Redemption*
#155 Once in Royal David's City

Reading of the New Testament Luke 1:5-25

Pastoral Prayer 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.

The Lord's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory/Anthem *Choir*
Advent Processional

Hymn of Praise* Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Reading of the New Testament Hebrews 3:7-11

Prayer for Illumination

Preaching of God's Word Rev. Bryan Crotts
Which Will It Be: Stiff Necked or Firm in Faith?

Prayer to Seal God's Word

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Hymn of Commitment*
#163 As with Gladness Men of Old

Benediction*

Postlude *Ed Limon*

The **Lord's Supper** will be administered today as part of our morning worship service. The Lord's Supper is for those who have been baptized in the Name of the Triune God, have publicly professed their faith in Christ, and are members of an evangelical church. Children who have not yet made a profession of faith and united with the church should refrain from taking the elements.

Sermon Notes