

Announcements:

As we gather for worship today, we “have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel” (Hebrews 12:22–24). The Lord is great and greatly to be praise for his mercy to us!

If you’re visiting with us today, we’re glad to have you! It’s our hope and prayer that you’re encouraged through worship and fellowship. If you have questions about salvation, the church, or anything else, please don’t hesitate to speak with Pastor Carter or one of our elders.

We celebrate the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper today as a part of our morning worship service. This is a covenant meal for all baptized and repentant Christians who belong to Christ’s church. In eating and drinking together, we commune with Christ and are fed and strengthen by him as we proclaim his death until he comes again.

Today, after the morning worship service, we’ll hold a brief informational, congregational meeting to discuss building improvements and to give a ministry update for the Fall.

Check out our webpage at sgrpc.org/sermons to download our Sunday Evening and Wednesday Evening devotions. Both are designed to be used in family devotions, or on your own.

Please don’t hesitate to contact Pastor Carter or one of the elders if you have any physical needs, or want spiritual care or prayer.

Financial Summary Statement:

August: Income: \$ 8,877.04 & Expenses: \$ 7,124.96

Year-to-date summary: Income: \$ 56,050.60 & Expenses: \$ 59,269.96

Church Officers

Pastor Pastor Jeffrey Carter (910-663-1348)
Elder (Clerk of Session) Will Stange (828-514-8071)
Elder Jules Rist (828-446-6582)
Elder Paul McClellan (828-455-0997)

* Prayer requests may be made by calling your Pastor or one of the Elders. You may also call the church phone at 828-381-8008 and leave a message.

Sovereign Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

613 3rd Avenue NE, Hickory, NC 28601

P.O. Box 2985 (28603) 828-381-8008

For more information call number above or visit: www.sgrpc.org



**Sovereign Grace
Reformed
Presbyterian Church (OPC)**

*It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night.*

Psalm 92:1–2 (ESV)

Lord’s Day Celebration and Service of Worship

Sovereign Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Morning Worship – September 20, 2020, 10:00 am

All Scripture is quoted from the English Standard Version.

** Congregation standing (feel free to remain seated if necessary)*

Order of Worship

Prelude

Sarah Miller

Greeting and Announcements

Silent Preparatory Prayer

***Call to Worship** Psalm 113:1–3

- ¹ Praise the LORD!
Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD!
- ² Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore!
- ³ From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised!

***Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

***Hymn of Praise** TPH #219:1–3, 5

O Worship the King

Reading of the Law of God Exodus 20:7

- ⁴ You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Responsive Reading Psalm 30

- ¹ I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.
- ² **O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.**
- ³ O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
- ⁴ **Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,**

and give thanks to his holy name.

- ⁵ For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a lifetime.

**Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.**

- ⁶ As for me, I said in my prosperity,
“I shall never be moved.”

- ⁷ **By your favor, O LORD,
you made my mountain stand strong;
you hid your face;
I was dismayed.**

- ⁸ To you, O LORD, I cry,
and to the LORD I plead for mercy:

- ⁹ **“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the pit?**

Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

- ¹⁰ **Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me!
O LORD, be my helper!”**

- ¹¹ You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth
and clothed me with gladness,

- ¹² **that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!**

Prayer of Confession of Sin

Assurance of Grace and Pardon Romans 10:9–13

⁹ if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Offering (basket at back)

***Doxology** TPH #567

Praise God from whom all blessing flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below,
Praise him, above, ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Supplication

***First Reading of God's Word** 2 John

¹ The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, ² because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

³ Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

⁴ I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. ⁵ And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. ⁶ And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. ⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸ Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. ⁹ Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, ¹¹ for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

¹² Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

¹³ The children of your elect sister greet you.

***Psalm of Preparation**..... TPH #27A:1-3

The LORD's My Light (Ps. 27)

***Second Reading of God's Word**.....Psalm 48

¹ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God!
His holy mountain,
² beautiful in elevation,
is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.
³ Within her citadels God
has made himself known as a fortress.

⁴ For behold, the kings assembled;
they came on together.
⁵ As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;
they were in panic; they took to flight.
⁶ Trembling took hold of them there,
anguish as of a woman in labor.
⁷ By the east wind you shattered
the ships of Tarshish.
⁸ As we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city of our God,
which God will establish forever. *Selah*

⁹ We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.
¹⁰ As your name, O God,
so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with righteousness.
¹¹ Let Mount Zion be glad!
Let the daughters of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments!

¹² Walk about Zion, go around her,
number her towers,
¹³ consider well her ramparts,
go through her citadels,

that you may tell the next generation
¹⁴ that this is God,
our God forever and ever.
He will guide us forever.

Preaching of God's Word..... Pastor Jeffrey Carter
"Zion, City of Our God"

Point: Now and forever, our great and glorious Lord is with us. His presence is the source of our ultimate safety, gladness, and rest.

Outline:

1. The Beauty of Zion (vv. 1–3)
 - a. Beautiful because her King is present with her.
 - b. Beautiful because of her citizens.
2. The Safety of Zion (vv. 4–8)
 - a. Safety from all enemies.
 - b. Safety through the Lord's might.
 - c. Safety for all time.
3. The Gladness of Zion (vv. 9–11)
 - a. Embraced by our hearts.
 - b. Expressed in our worship and praise.
 - c. Expanded through our witness.
4. The Endurance of Zion (vv. 12–14)
 - a. Unto every generation.
 - b. Through death itself.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Matthew 26:26–29

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you,²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

***Hymn of Response** TPH #342:1, 3, 4
Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

***Benediction**

Sovereign Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church
Evening Devotion Outline

The whole Lord's Day is to be a day of worship and praise to God. This evening devotion is a great way to close out the Lord's Day by reflecting on God's word and works through Christ. Begin with reading the opening Scriptures. Pray the Lord's Prayer together and sing a Psalm or hymn. Have someone read the passage of Scripture (taken from the "first reading" of the morning service). Once you listen to the devotion, reflect with a few (or all) of the questions for reflection and close with singing and prayer.

The audio for the devotion can be accessed at sgrpc.org/sermons.

Suggested Scripture readings for the week ahead are included as well.

All Scripture is quoted from the English Standard Version.

Opening Scripture..... Ephesians 3:14–21

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
in 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.

Suggested Psalms and Hymns (from the Trinity Psalter Hymnal)

16B – Preserve Me, O God

380 – Crown Him with Many Crowns

Confession of Faith:.....Westminster Confession of Faith, Ch. 25

Of the Church

1. The catholic or universal church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

2. The visible church, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children: and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.

3. Unto this catholic visible church Christ hath given the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints, in this life, to the end of the world: and doth, by his own presence and Spirit, according to his promise, make them effectual thereunto.

4. This catholic church hath been sometimes more, sometimes less visible. And particular churches, which are members thereof, are more or less pure, according as the doctrine of the gospel is taught and embraced, ordinances administered, and public worship performed more or less purely in them.

5. The purest churches under heaven are subject both to mixture and error; and some have so degenerated, as to become no churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan. Nevertheless, there shall be always a church on earth, to worship God according to his will.

6. There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof.

Scripture Reading..... 2 John

Devotion Pastor Jeffrey Carter

“To the Elect Lady”

[This audio devotion can be accessed at sgrpc.org/sermons.]

Point: The church is a community founded on the truth and following the One who is “the way, the truth, and the life.” Though our lives be fraught with spiritual danger, Christ graciously and powerfully leads us to joy and rest.

Outline:

1. The Centrality of Truth (vv. 1–3)
2. The Path of Life (vv. 4–6)
3. The Dangers Before Us (vv. 7–11)
4. The Friends Alongside Us (vv. 12–14)

Questions for Reflection:

1. Why might we understand this letter to be written to a local church? How does that effect how we read it?
2. What is the “truth” that John speaks about in the first few verses of this letter?
3. What’s the relationship between loving God and keeping his commandments?
4. How ought we obey John’s call to “watch yourselves”? Why do we need to do this?
5. What reward does John have in mind in verse 8?
6. What are some examples of a “Go-Ahead” theology?
7. What type of hospitality is forbidden in verses 10–11?
8. According to verse 12, what is one of the greatest goals of Christian fellowship?
9. How can you encourage you fellow believers as they travel along the path of life? What’s one thing you can do this week?

Closing Hymn TPH #404

The Church’s One Foundation

Closing Scripture and Prayer.....Hebrews 13:20–21

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us

that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Readings for the Week

To build on your understanding of God's Word, read the following passages and reflect on what they tell you about Jesus himself, the Father, your own life, and your salvation.

John 13–17 contain what's called the "Upper Room Discourse." In these chapters Jesus prepares his disciples for life after his ascension to the Father. Much of what Jesus says in these chapters is echoed by John in his letters.

Monday: John 13

Tuesday: John 14

Wednesday: John 15

Thursday: John 16

Friday: John 17

Saturday: Psalm 91