

WORSHIP GUIDE: SUNDAY AM – December 3rd, 2023 – 10:15am

Persevering in Christ

Welcome: [Pastor Steve]

- Scripture Focus: Philippians 3:12-16. In these verses, Paul stands as a model of steadfastness. This passage gives us a basis of both instruction and motivation to press forward in obedience to Christ.
- Service Focus: The Righteousness of Christ is the basis for obedience to Christ. He is worthy of our worship and obedience.

WORSHIP CHRIST

Call To Worship: [Pastor Joel]

John 1:14 - ¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Congregational Song: Angels from the Realms of Glory [Sing 3 stanzas]

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear.

*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One.

*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Congregational Song: Sing We the Song of Emmanuel [Sing all 3 stanzas]

Sing we the song of Emmanuel
This the Christ who was long foretold
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem
Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
God Most High in a manger laid
Lift your voices and now proclaim
Great and glorious, Love has come to us
Join now with the hosts of heaven

Come we to welcome Emmanuel
King who came with no crown or throne
Helpless He lay, the Invincible
Maker of Mary, now Mary's son
O what wisdom to save us all
Shepherds, sages, before Him fall
Grace and majesty, what humility
Come on bended knee, adore Him

Go spread the news of Emmanuel
Joy and peace for the weary heart
Lift up your heads, for your King has come
Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark
Glory shining for all to see
Hope alive, let the gospel ring
God has made a way, He will have the praise
Tell the world His name is Jesus

PERSEVERE IN CHRIST

Scripture's call to live the Christian life with perseverance: [Pastor Bernie]

Scripture calls us to live the Christian life with perseverance. A common analogy used in Scripture that helps motivate and instruct us in this, is an athletic metaphor of completing a race. We see this analogy in several New Testament passages including our verses today in Philippians 3. Let us consider some of these passages:

Leader Reads:

- **Hebrews 12:1-3** - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who

endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

- **I Corinthians 9:24-27** - ²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
- **II Timothy 4:6-8** - ⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Congregation Recites Together:

- **Philippians 3:12-16** - ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Prayer for perseverance & continued growth [Pastor Bernie]

Congregational Song: O Church Arise [Sing all 4 stanzas]

O Church, arise, and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold, whose battle-cry is Love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died,

An inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This vict'ry march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come put strength in every stride,
Give grace for every hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory.

Congregational Song: Beneath the Cross of Jesus [Sing all 3 stanzas]

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy
That calls me as I am;
For hands that should discard me
Hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus
My unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus
His family is my own
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams,
Now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor
The ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus
See the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus
The path before the crown
We follow in His footsteps
Where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us
To be His perfect bride;

Beneath the cross of Jesus
We will gladly live our lives.

*Kids K3-6th Grade Dismissed to Junior Church

Message: Philippians 3:12-16 [Pastor Steve]

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Congregational Song of Response: O Great God [Sing 2 Stanzas]

O great God of highest heaven
Occupy my lowly heart
Own it all and reign supreme
Conquer every rebel power
Let no vice or sin remain
That resists Your holy war
You have loved and purchased me
Make me Yours forevermore

Help me now to live a life
That's dependent on Your grace
Keep my heart and guard my soul
From the evils that I face
You are worthy to be praised
With my every thought and deed
O great God of highest heaven
Glorify Your Name through me

Announcements: [Pastor Steve]

- Today, 5:30-8:00pm – Teen Fellowship at the Church
- Friday, December 8th - Gems Christmas Event
- Sunday December 10th
 - Christmas Caroling opportunity in PM
- Saturday, December 16th at 4:00pm – FBC Ministries Christmas Celebration

- Sunday, December 17th
 - 8:45-9:45am Coffee & Donut Fellowship
 - Baptisms that day in AM service
- Sunday, December 24th
 - No Sunday School
 - Regular AM Service at 10:15am
 - PM Candlelight Service at 6:00pm
- Thursday, January 11th – Cello Concert [Addison Nichols]