

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH (PCA)

BIBLE BELIEVING † CHRIST CENTERED † GRACE FILLED † GOSPEL DRIVEN



Worship for the Lord's Day

September 20th, 2020 • 10:45 A.M.

Trinity Fellowship Church exists to glorify God by equipping a community of believers to worship God and be witnesses of Him in Central Arkansas and to the ends of the earth.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

– 2 Peter 3:9

That the return of Christ seemed to be slow in coming caused quite a stir among the earliest Christians. In fact, some so-called teachers in the early church taught that the apparent delay of Christ’s return proved that He would not be coming back at all. These false teachers spread this heresy among the audience of Peter’s second epistle, causing even some true believers to begin to wonder if the false teachers might be right.

Second Peter 3 devotes much space to addressing this important concern. In today’s passage, Peter affirms the reality of the second coming in light of its seeming delay, encouraging believers that the Lord is indeed not slow in fulfilling His promises. Rather, the Lord had not yet come in Peter’s day because of His patience in waiting for Peter’s audience to come to repentance (v. 9).

Many have used 3:9 as a proof text against the Reformed doctrine of predestination. How can God predestine only some to eternal life, it is said, if He does not desire that any should perish? Let us note, however, that Peter is not speaking to all people in general in this verse. He is addressing an audience of believers, telling them that the Lord is patient with “you” (the believing audience) and not willing that anyone in this audience should perish but instead find repentance. Far from denying that God elects only some to eternal life, this verse tells us that God has seemed to delay the parousia (the return of Christ) in order that His people might repent before it is too late.

Instead of being an evidence against Jesus’ return, what might seem to be a delay of the parousia actually demonstrates God’s mercy. God does not wish that any of His people should fail to repent; thus, we know that Jesus will not return until all the elect are gathered in. Lest this make anyone complacent in their sin, Peter also reminds us that His return will come suddenly, and therefore we must repent today before the parousia makes it too late (v. 10).

Celebration *of* Worship

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

*During this time, be prayerful and reverent in preparation
for the worship of our holy God in His sanctuary.
(Please silence all phones and electronic devices.)*

† Processional Hymn

Hymns of Grace

O Father, You Are Sovereign

N^o 17

† Call to Worship

from Psalm 90

Leader: *Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.*

† Hymn of Praise

Hymns of Grace

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

N^o 55

† Prayer of Invocation

† Please stand, as able

Call to Confession

Ezekiel 18:30–32

Leader: *“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”*

Corporate Prayer of Confession

from Psalm 25

Unison: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! For your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

1 Timothy 2:1–6

Leader: *I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.*

† Hymn of Trust

Hymns of Grace

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Nº 291

Our Worship in the World for the World

*Salvation and life in union with Christ frees us to worship and work
for the glory of God and the fulfillment of our created purpose.
In obedience to His commission, we support the work of the church in all places
and faithfully serve in the many vocations to which we have been called.*

Prayers of the People

*God calls us to be a praying people.
Let us join in prayer, offering our praise,
thanksgiving, and intercession to God.*

Offertory

*Our offering is an act of worship in which we express our gratitude and reliance on God.
For those of you who are guests with us today, giving is not obligatory.
We are eager to share with you more about our church and its ministry
and to invite you to participate with us as you are called by God.*

*Tithes and offerings may be placed in the plates in the narthex,
or you may give online at trinityfellowshipppca.org/give,
or by texting GIVE to 501-456-4896.*

† Doxology

Hymns of Grace

N^o 440

Reading of Scripture

ESV Pew Bible

2 Peter 3:1–9

p. 1019

Sermon

“The Patience of God”

Rev. Brad DeVries

† **Hymn of Response**

Hymns of Grace

O Church of Christ, Invincible

Nº 338

† **Benediction**

† **Recessional Hymn**

Hymns of Grace

Now unto Him

Nº 437

Postlude

*As you leave the sanctuary today, may you know the hope to which God has called you,
experience the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
and trust his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

*Please help us love our community by recycling your unneeded bulletins as you leave.
A recycling bin is located by the door in the narthex.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter Articles ▶ The final day to submit articles for the October Newsletter is Sunday, September 27th. Articles should be submitted via email to Heath.

Guys Camping Trip ▶ The annual Guys Camping Trip will be October 16th–18th at Petit Jean State Park in Morrilton. This event is for the men, young men, and boys of Trinity Fellowship Church. For more information and to register, please visit the church website. The deadline to register is Sunday, October 4th.

Women's Bible Study ▶ The Women's Bible Study meets weekly on Wednesdays at the church. The morning group meets at 9:30 and the evening group meets at 6:30. Contact Katie DeVries for more information.

Men's Prayer Group ▶ The Men's Prayer Group meets weekly on Thursdays at 6:00 A.M. at the church. Contact Ron Plate for more information.

Men's Zoom Group ▶ The Men's Zoom Group meets weekly on Thursdays at 12:00 P.M. via Zoom. Contact Brad DeVries for more information.

A Special Welcome to Our Visitors

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ! Our prayer is that you will find great joy and spiritual nourishment as we worship together today.

- ❖ Welcome packets are available in the narthex. We encourage you to fill out a visitor's card and place it in the plate located in the narthex.
- ❖ Large print ESV Bibles are available near the bulletins.
- ❖ A cry room is available for infants and small children. The cry room is located adjacent to the narthex.

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MISSIONARIES

Austin Braasch RUF at Arkansas State; Jonesboro
Dan Anderson Central Hope Church; Little Rock
Del Farris MNA Ministry to State; Colorado
Michelle Hill CRU/FamilyLife; Little Rock
Mike and Eli Sabin MTW; Guam
Tom and Karen Mirabella MTW; Chiba, Japan
Union Rescue Mission Little Rock



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