

# TRINITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH (PCA)

BIBLE BELIEVING † CHRIST CENTERED † GRACE FILLED † GOSPEL DRIVEN



**Worship for the Lord's Day**

**March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 • 10:45 A.M.**

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*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.*

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## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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*“A sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him. But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.”*

– Ecclesiastes 8:12–13

Waiting for justice to be done is one of the hardest aspects of life in our fallen world. So often, we see the righteous trodden underfoot and the enemies of our Lord prosper, and this might tempt us to wonder if things will ever be set right. Our innate sense that justice will win in the end, however, keeps us from succumbing to nihilism, and it gives us hope for an afterlife where evil is judged and good triumphs. But this hope is not mere wishful thinking, for it is confirmed in Scripture.

The Preacher has already said that the wicked are often honored despite their evil, and this might make us think that evil people will never get their due. Yet in today’s passage, we learn that the success of wicked people is but a temporary thing. The Preacher teaches this by means of a paradox, telling us that the sinner prolongs his life and that he does not prolong his days. What could the Preacher mean? The answer lies in the fact that the Preacher is looking at the world from two different perspectives. From the earthly, limited view of human beings, it does seem that many wicked people live longer than would be due if their evil were taken fully into account. Yet from a heavenly perspective, from the foundation of the fear of God, they do not lengthen their lives at all.

On the other hand, it will go well for those who fear God. By linking the lack of fearing the Lord with the failure to prolong one’s days, the Preacher is pointing us to the fact that the fear of God will lengthen our lives. Thus, we have an implicit reference to heaven, where the redeemed will enjoy life in the Lord’s presence forever.

The fear of the Lord is not only the beginning of wisdom; it is also the prerequisite for eternal life. It is not that such fear is a meritorious work that God rewards with eternal life; rather, such fear is born of saving faith that unites us to Christ, whose merit alone will save us. Though fearing the Lord may not bring with it much earthly success, it will bring us to eternal life, where we will see justice win and evil vanquished. Let us fear the Lord as we await that coming day.

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# Celebration of Worship

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## 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.)*

### † Call to Worship

**from Psalm 34**

Leader: *I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.*

### † Hymn of Praise

**The Secret Place**

Hymns of Grace

Nº 51

### † Prayer of Invocation

### Call to Confession

**from Psalm 73:1–24**

Leader: *Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*

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† Please stand, as able

*But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end. Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!*

*Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.*

## **Individual Prayers of Confession**

### **Corporate Prayer of Confession and Lament**      **from *The Psalter Hymnal***

Unison:    Why, Lord, must evil seem to get its way? We confess that our sin is deeply shameful; but the wicked are openly scornful—they mock your name and laugh at our dismay. We know your providential love holds true: nothing can curse us endlessly with sorrow. Transform, dear Lord, this damage into good; show us your glory, hidden by this evil.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Psalm 73:25–28**

Leader:    *Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.*

### **† Hymn of Trust**

Hymns of Grace

### **Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul**

N<sup>o</sup> 52

## **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.*

## † Doxology

Hymns of Grace

Nº 440

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.

## † Prayer of Dedication

### Reading of Scripture

ESV Pew Bible

**Ecclesiastes 8:1–17**

*p.* 557

### Sermon

**“The Shining Face”**

Rev. Brad DeVries

## † Hymn of Preparation

Hymns of Grace

**Before the Throne of God Above**

Nº 187

## Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*We welcome all baptized Christians who have professed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation  
and are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel to receive holy communion with us.  
If you are not able to receive communion, please use this time to meditate on the prayer found on page 6.*

We serve gluten-free bread and your choice of  
grape juice (colored cups, outer ring) or wine (clear cups, inner rings)†

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† As the elements are distributed, please wait until all are served so that we may partake together.

† **Hymn of Response**

Hymns of Grace

**See, He Comes**

Nº 422

† **Benediction**

† **Recessional Hymn**

Hymns of Grace

**Benediction (v. 2)**

Nº 438

May this peace which passes understanding,  
and this grace which makes us what we are,  
And the fellowship of His communion  
make us one in spirit and in heart.  
And to Him be praise for His glorious reign,  
from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n;  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain,  
Christ eternal, the King of kings.

**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.*

**A Prayer of Belief:** Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Newsletter** ▶ The March Newsletter is now available. Hardcopies of the newsletter can be found in the narthex.

**Fellowship Lunch** ▶ Our monthly Fellowship Lunch will be held next Sunday, March 14th, following the worship service. The Westminster Small Group is responsible for setting up for the Fellowship Lunch.

**Small Groups** ▶ Small Groups will meet next Sunday, March 14th, following the Fellowship Lunch.



**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.

**TRINITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH (PCA)**

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**SESSION**

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Howard Gorter: 615-636-1531  
Ron Plate: 501-258-0753  
Glenn VanEnk: 501-766-0931

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**MISSIONARIES**

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Austin Braasch . . . . . RUF at Arkansas State; Jonesboro  
Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center . . . . .North Little Rock  
Dan Anderson . . . . . Central Hope Church; Little Rock  
Del Farris . . . . . MNA Ministry to State; Colorado  
Michelle Hill . . . . . Revive Our Hearts; Niles, Michigan  
Mike and Eli Sabin . . . . . MTW; Guam  
Tom and Karen Mirabella . . . . .MTW; Chiba, Japan  
Union Rescue Mission . . . . .Little Rock



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