

***Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Scott Rollins

Leader: Let us go from this place trusting that God is with us and for us in every place. May the grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you and abide with you this day and forevermore. Amen.

***Congregational Benediction**

Make us one, Lord, make us one;
Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let your love flow so the world will know
we are one in you

Postlude

Greeters Susan Espiritu, Gail Giffin
Ushers Darlene Miller, Joe Schnorr, Linda Schnorr, Brian Cartledge
Liturgist Dan Rhea
Music Bob Eubanks, Nancy Wells, George Hill, FCPC Choral Ensemble, Hunter Wilburn
Bridge Interim Rev. Dr. Scott Rollins

Announcements

Centennial Homecoming, September 17th – Join us for our Centennial Homecoming worship service at 10:30am with a potluck lunch to follow in the fellowship hall!

Welcome Rev. Carl and Denise Grosse, our new Interim Pastor! Dr. Grosse will be in the office beginning Monday, September 11th. He invites everyone to stop by and say hello anytime in the coming weeks. He asks that you call the church or email him to give him a heads up or to schedule a time to meet, pastor@fountaincitypres.org

Lunch Bunch, September 21st at Big Ed's Pizza. Please meet in the church parking lot at 10:30am if you wish to ride the van over. Please let Susan Espiritu know if you plan to attend, 865-660-5617 or suanespiritu86@gmail.com

Grandma's Pajamas will begin their 12th year sewing each Wednesday from 9am to 12 pm.

GriefShare begins on September 19th online and in-person. See Susan Espiritu or the church website for more information.



September 10, 2023

Prelude

Word of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Scott Rollins

Call to Worship

Leader: Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song!

All: This day is God's gift to us.

Leader: Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song!

All: God has graciously gathered us together in this place.

Leader: Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song!

All: God is good and faithful. God is worthy of our praise.

***Hymn #433 Rise Up, O Church of God**

Rise up, O Church of God! Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O Church of God! His kingdom tarries long;
Bring in the day of brotherhood And end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O Church of God! The Church for you doth wait,
Her strength unequal to her task, Rise up, and make her great!

Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where His feet have trod;
As foll'wers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O Church of God!

Ritual of Friendship

Members and Guests – Please sign and pass the friendship register located on the center aisle under the pew in front

Call to Confession

Leader: Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, in Jesus, our risen Lord, we have seen your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We are quick to accuse and slow to confess. We find faults easily in others while ignoring our own shortcomings. We have squandered your gifts. We have turned from your ways. We have ignored your Word. Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace that day by day we might move closer to the people you would us be. Amen.

(Time for Silent Confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness and Peace

Leader: Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is good news!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

***Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to each other. The peace of the Lord be with you,

All: And also with you!

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

Psalm Reading Psalm 119:33-40

Anthem Nothing But the Blood of Jesus

Hunter Wilburn, Violin

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain:

O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this I see: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea: nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

This is all my hope and peace: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness: nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone: nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done: nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Refrain]

Gospel Reading Matthew 18:15-20

Sermon Call to Community

***Affirmation of Faith**

All: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Hymn #688 Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us**

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

We are Thine, do Thou befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor, Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Thy love our beings fill:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Scott Rollins

All: 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; 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

Call for Offering

Leader: With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

Offertory

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost**

***Prayer of Dedication**

All: O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the Head of the church and the Lord of our lives. Amen.

***Hymn #604 I Than Shall Live**

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am His child and I am not afraid.
So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;
The law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion.
I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I'll dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

Your Kingdom come around and through and in me;
Your power and glory, let them shine through me.
Your Hallowed Name, O may I bear with honor,
And may Your living Kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life, O may I share with honor,
And may You feed a hungry world through me.