

**From Mark 4:** **1** And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea. **2** Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching: **3** "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. **4** And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. **5** Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. **6** But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. **7** And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. **8** But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." **9** And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" **10** But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. **11** And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, **12** so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.'" **13** And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"

**Sunday:** **Where else is this account found in Scripture?** **Pray** for the authors who are presently writing books for Crown & Covenant Publications. **Pray** for the Session meeting at North Edinburgh (Scotland) RPC, scheduled for Tuesday.

**Monday:** **What is a parable?** **Please pray** that Orlando, Fla., RPC's first desire would be for God's glory in all they say and do. **Pray** for Selma (Ala.) RPC.

**Tuesday:** **Read Psalm 126 and compare it to this passage.** **Pray** with Russell, Ont., RPC for the faithful proclamation of the Word every Lord's Day, and that unbelievers would be brought to saving faith in Christ. **Pray** for McKinnon (Australia) RPC.

**Wednesday:** **What does it mean to listen to the Lord?** **Pray** that God would continue to bless the Mandarin-speaking ministry of North Hills (Pittsburgh, Pa.) RPC; **ask** that there would be growth through evangelism and an increase in the number of married couples involved in the ministry. **Pray** for the meetings of Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery, starting tomorrow.

**Thursday:** **What are examples of people not listening to the Lord?** **Pray** that the Lord would use Lafayette, Ind., RPC to build His kingdom: that they would reach out to the community in ways that point people to Jesus as Savior and Lord. **Pray** for continued growth in spiritual maturity and that Pastor Matthew Ma and his wife, Dorcas, would be encouraged in their faithful ministry to the Mandarin-speaking community in Pittsburgh.

**Friday:** **Why do some people truly hear the gospel and others don't?** **Pray** for the older members of Washington, Iowa, RPC as they struggle with various health issues; **pray** that they would be able to stay connected to the church body. **Pray** for the conference tomorrow at Stranraer (Scotland) RPC on "Adoption and the Church."

**Saturday:** **How does II Corinthians 2:15-16 relate to this passage?** **Pray** for the numerous young people in Bloomington, Ind., RPC—that God would give them clarity about their identity in Christ and His calling to live lives that honor Him in the midst of our fallen culture. **Pray** for the service at ARPC tomorrow.

# Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

*The Lord's Day  
February 26, 2023*

Meeting every week at  
574 Western Avenue  
(corner of Western and Walnut Street)  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Worship at 3:30 PM

Pastor Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.

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## Proclaiming the Kingship of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions

The Call to Worship  
4:16

Song of Solomon

\*The Invocation

\*Psalm 22F “My God, My God, O Why Have You . . . Forsaken Me?”

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 1:1-13

Pastoral Prayer

\*Psalm 14A “The Fool Is Saying in His Heart, There Surely Is No God”

Scripture Text

Ezra 8

The Sermon

“St. Ezra’s Return—The Details” (Part 2)

\*Prayer

\*Psalm 69B

“O God, My Foolishness and Sins”

The Administration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

\*Psalm 118C [stanzas 14-17]

“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made”

\*Benediction

\*Psalm 115B

“O Israel, Trust Ye in the Lord”

\* *Congregation will please stand.*

***We are so glad that you could join us today!*** Please be sure to return next week and bring a friend.

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions & Answers

**“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”—Colossians 3:2.**

**“Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a fountain of waters.”—Psalm 114:7-8.**

**Q. 91. How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation? A.** The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

**Q. 92. What is a sacrament? A.** A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

**Q. 93. Which are the sacraments of the New Testament? A.** The sacraments of the New Testament are, baptism, and the Lord’s Supper.

**For your convenience, a tithe box is located at the back.**

Theme: God (graciously) enables Ezra to return to Jerusalem.

I. People of Ezra’s Return (vv. 1-20)

A. “chief of their fathers”

B. Levites and Nethinims—temple servants

II. Provision of Ezra’s Return (vv. 24-30, 33-36)

A. The overseers

B. The material—tons of silver and gold

C. Holiness—this is the important thing

D. Offerings

Application

A. Come to Jesus Christ who fulfilled all these sacrifices

1. John 1:29, 36

2. Romans 5:10-11

3. Hebrews 9:13-14, 26, 28

4. 1 Peter 2:24

B. Examine yourself

1. Are you repentant of your sin?

sacrifice which Jesus paid at the cross for sin. **We also encourage you to ask how you can join with us the next time we observe this sacrament.**

2. Are you really trusting in Christ for salvation?

## **Participation in the Lord's Supper**

**The Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)** takes the sacrament of the Lord's Supper very seriously. In it, Jesus Himself meets with His people, in a time of sweet fellowship with our Savior.

**But it is precisely because of this holy nature of communion, that it must not be taken lightly.** Historically, Presbyterians have confessed that the elders of the church have a responsibility to ensure that only those who can make a valid profession of faith and have been admitted to membership in an evangelical church, be allowed to partake of the bread and the wine.

**Accordingly, we ask that only those who have had opportunity to meet with the elders of this congregation partake of this holy meal.** While the individual has primary responsibility before the Lord for partaking in a worthy manner, the elders of the church also have a responsibility in this matter.

**Those who have received a valid Trinitarian baptism and are members of a Bible-believing church, and would like to participate in the Lord's Supper,** are invited to contact us prior to the date of observance, so that arrangements can be made for them to commune with us at the Lord's table.

**If you are not eligible to partake of this sacrament on this particular Lord's Day,** we still invite you to come and worship with us, and to commune in your heart by meditating on the great