

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 3, 2019

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*Please sign the Welcome Pad and pass it along the pew.
Turn off all cell phones, and refrain from using cameras during worship.*

VOLUNTARY: Prière à Notre-Dame Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME, CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & EXTENDING HOSPITALITY Danny Massie

* CALL TO WORSHIP Matt Logan (8:30 a.m.)
Danny Massie (10:30 a.m.)

Leader: Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness;

People: **for we do not know how to pray as we ought,**

Leader: but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

People: **And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind
of the Spirit,**

All: **because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according
to the will of God.**

– from Romans 8:26-27

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 688 – Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart MORECAMBE

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Matt Logan

**O Lord, our God, our lives are cluttered by too many things and too
much to do. We are driven to succeed and distracted from our service to
you and others. We focus on the trivial and the temporary ignoring the
significant and the eternal. Made for fellowship with you, apart from
whom our hearts are restless, we yet spurn your presence and ignore**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION continues, over

your overtures for greater intimacy. Forgive us, Lord, and restore us to yourself. Help us, like your servant Mary, to find the one thing that is needed and to sit at your feet. Amen.

A brief period of silence is reserved for personal confession

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Glory Be to the Father GLORIA PATRI



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er
shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (10:30 a.m. only)

FIRST LESSON (10:30 a.m. only): *Psalm 63:1-8* (PEW BIBLE, PAGE 527)

Reader: Eva Engebretson

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN (10:30 a.m. only) Lisa Witherspoon

(Children ages 4 – first grade are invited to Worship Enrichment
and will return for the Hymn of Response.)

ANTHEM (10:30 a.m. only): Let Thy Merciful Ears O Lord

Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)

Chancel Choir

Let thy merciful ears, O Lord,
be open unto the prayers of thy humble servants;
And that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please thee;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SECOND LESSON: *Matthew 7:21-23*..... (PEW BIBLE, PAGE 7)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Prayer: It's Problems and Possibilities

1. Why Prayer? Danny Massie

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire ST. AGNES



1. Prayer is the soul's sin - cere de - sire, un - ut - tered or ex - pressed;
2. Prayer is the bur - den of a sigh, the fail - ing of a tear,
3. Prayer is the con - trite sin - ner's voice, Re - turn - ing from his ways,
4. Prayer is the Chris - tian's vi - tal breath, the Chris - tian's na - tive air,
5. O Thou, by whom we come to God, The Life, the Truth, the Way,



The mo - tion of a hid - den fire that trem - bles in the breast.
The up - ward glan - cing of an eye, when none but God is near.
While an - gels in their songs re - joice And cry, "Be - hold, he prays!"
His watch - word at the gates of death; He en - ters heaven with prayer.
The path of prayer Thy - self hast trod; Lord, teach us how to pray!

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (10:30 a.m. only) Neil Dunnivant

Jesus lived with a constant sense of his Father's presence.

He put God's claim on his life above all else.

He joined others in God's worship and praise.

He drew strength from the Scriptures.

He prayed and taught his disciples to pray.

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
personal lives that are centered in God
and open to God's reality and rule.**

Christ teaches us

to put obedience to God

above the interests of self, family, race or nation;

to offer God joyously

our money, ability, and time.

It is part of our discipline

to observe a day of worship and rest,

setting aside our own working to enjoy God's work,

celebrating with sisters and brothers the Lord's goodness.

We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture,

not expecting detailed directions for every decision,

but relying on the Word to tell us who God is,

to press God's present claim on us,

and to assure us of God's grace and comfort.

We are charged to pray for ourselves and others

with gratitude, boldness, and persistence,

confident that God hears and answers our prayers

in ways best for us all.

Life in God's presence issues in life for others,

for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see,

we cannot love God whom we do not see.

- from A Declaration of Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE..... Matt Logan (8:30 a.m.)

Neil Dunnivant (10:30 a.m.)

concluding with the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: The Secret of ChristRichard Shephard (b. 1949)

Chancel Choir

For a long time I have held my peace, but now will I speak.
I will lead the blind in a way they know not,
in paths that they have not known I will guide them.
I will turn their darkness into light, and I will not forsake them.

– based on Isaiah 42: 14-16

And he showed me a pure river of the water of life, as clear as crystal,
proceeding out of the throne of God; and on either side of the river was
there a tree of life, and the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations.

– based on Revelation 22:1-3

Help us, Lord, to persevere in prayer
with minds awake and thankful hearts,
that we may share the secret of Christ
with those we meet on our earthly pilgrimage,
following in the steps of Jesus,
our master and our Friend. Amen.

– The Pilgrim Prayer (based on Colossians 4:2-4)

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise
God, all crea - tures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP Danny Massie

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Go with Us, Lord TALLIS' CANON



Go with us, Lord, and guide the way Through
this and ev - ery com - ing day, That in Your Spir - it
strong and true Our lives may be our gift to You.

VOLUNTARY (8:30 a.m. only)

John Alexander, organ

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Danny Massie, Interim Pastor | Matt Logan, Director of Young Adult Ministry and Discipleship | Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor (10:30 a.m.) | Lisa Witherspoon, Associate Director of Children's Ministry (10:30 a.m.) | Eva Engebretson, Lay Reader (10:30 a.m.) | Emma Ballenger and Nick VanGorden, Acolytes | John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist | Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir | Chancel Choir

THIS MORNING IN REJOICE!

Rejoice!, our non-traditional service, takes place Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in Mullin Life Center, receiving the sermon via video link. Also leading Rejoice! today are:

Nate Sell, Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident | Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care | Mac Faircloth, Lay Reader | Anne Albert, Worship and Music Coordinator | Radha Upton, Piano | Credo and Cherub Choirs | Rejoice! Band

* Please stand as you are able.

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“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” Text: George Croly; Music: Frederick Cook Atkinson.

“Gloria Be to the Father” Text: Traditional liturgical text; Music: Henry W. Greatorex.

“Prayer Is the Soul’s Sincere Desire ” Text: James Montgomery; Music: USA campmeeting melody.

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Text: Brian Wren; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*.

“Go with Us, Lord” Text: Mary Jackson Cathey; Music: Thomas Tallis.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service in the Sanctuary, for the purpose of electing new elders, church trustee and at-large members of the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MARCH 24 – The Session of First Presbyterian Church has called a meeting of the congregation for Sunday, March 24, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service in the Sanctuary, for the purpose of electing the Pastor Nominating Committee, and to approve the change of call for one of our pastors. A backup congregational meeting is scheduled for March 31, if needed.

THE LITURGICAL COLOR GREEN seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors’ stoles signifies the season of “Ordinary Time.” This season is a time of spiritual growth when the scriptures about Jesus’ preaching, teaching and healings are read and proclaimed.

ABOUT TODAY’S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of James Marion Millican by his family.

OUR 10:30 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP SERVICE IS LIVE-STREAMED on the web, and can be accessed at fpcgreensboro.org/streaming-live, or via our Facebook page. You can also sign up for reminders and alerts at livestream.com/fpcgreensboro, and you can stream the service on mobile devices by installing the Livestream app (free account sign-in required).

DON’T ASSUME ... that the pastors know that you or other members are in the hospital or home with a lengthy illness. Please call the church offices at 336.373.0445 and let us know so that we can extend a hand in prayer and care.

PASTOR ON CALL: When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.

THE SAFETY OF FPC members and visitors is a priority for our ushers and greeters, who receive training in Session-adopted procedures. Please let them know if you observe anything that might require their attention.

APPLY FOR A 2019 GRANT from the L. Richardson Trust through April 12. The trust makes grants annually “for the benefit of Home and Foreign Missions and the benevolent causes of the church.” Amounts tend to range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Contact Gerard Davidson, 336.314.2882 or gdavidson@wardblacklaw.com. Download the application at fpcgreensboro.org/outreach.

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NEWS: You can sign up for our weekly E-News and our Thursday morning Sunday Preview at the link at fpcgreensboro.org/connect/our-media

THE MINISTRY OF MEMBERS – Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ’s mission. A faithful member bears witness to God’s love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ’s Church. *Such involvement includes:*

- proclaiming the good news in word and deed;
- taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation;
- lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support;
- studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life;
- supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time and talents;
- demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church;
- responding to God’s activity in the world through service to others;
- living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life;
- working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment;
- participating in the governing responsibilities of the church;
- and reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one’s membership, and considering ways in which one’s participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful. *(from the Book of Order)*

IN MEMORIAM

Janet Brooks Sheffield
February 27, 2019

Olena S. Bunn
February 26, 2019

WE WELCOME YOU to the worship of God and to our community of faith. We are a church of growing disciples believing that worship is at the center of all we are and do as Christians.

IF YOU ARE A VISITOR, we encourage you to wear a name tag, available in the blue Welcome notebooks on your pew.

VISITORS AND MEMBERS, please sign the attendance pad in the Welcome notebooks. We care about how folks are doing and try to pay attention when our members haven't worshiped with us in a while. And please note the names of others on your pew and say "Hello!"

FAMILIES can find comfortable seating, a nursing screen, and a live feed of the service in the Myers Loyalty Room behind the Sanctuary. Parents must supervise children.

IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN, we offer ways to make worship meaningful for them:

Nursery care is provided for infants through age 4 on the **first floor of Mullin Life Center**. Our Child Protection Policy helps ensure our care is safe, loving and appropriate.

Children in Worship bags: Young children are invited to choose from an assortment of crayons, coloring books, and other activities to create their own worship bag for the service. These items are located on a cart in the Tower Room. Please ask an usher for assistance, if needed. Bags should be returned to the cart after the service.

Worship Enrichment: After the children's message, ages 4 to 7 are invited to follow adult leaders to the Children's Space in the Welcome Center for Worship Enrichment. Children will return to the sanctuary after the sermon.

Restrooms, including a family room, are located off the hallway behind the pulpit and chancel. We encourage young children to be accompanied by parents any time they leave the Sanctuary.

NEXT WEEK IN CHURCH

SCHOOL 9:30 a.m.

- **"Reconsidering the Parables of Jesus"**
– discussion led by Professor Sandie Gravett. Agape and YMBC join together for this class, which meets in Redhead Hall.
- **Discussion from Rob Bell's "What is the Bible?"** in the Commitment Class. Meets in Memorial 100, the Blair Hagan Room.
- **Discussion focusing on The Unjust Steward: Luke 16:1-13**, led by Doug Key, in the Homebuilders/Faith Matters Class in Myers Loyalty Room, Smith 242.
- **"Grow, Hike, Pray"** – new class continues, led by Matt Logan in Cannon's Solarium. We will explore how gardening, pilgrimage, and prayer can foster spiritual growth.
- **Big God, Big Questions for Parents** – special class for confirmand parents, but open to all. "Will You Devote yourself to the Church's Teachings?" led by Neil Dunnavant. Meets in Memorial 300, Youth Room.
- **Exodus** – A deep study of the second book of the Bible, led by Gerard Davidson. Seekers Class meets in Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125.