

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

10:30 a.m.

## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*Please sign the Welcome Pad and pass it along the pew.  
Turn off all cell phones, and refrain from using cameras during worship.  
Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.*

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. Amen.  
*- A Celtic Blessing*

## THE VISION OF GOD

VOLUNTARY: Psalm Prelude, Opus 32, No. 2 .....Herbert Howells ( 1892-1983)  
*John Alexander, organ*

WELCOME, INVITATION, AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE..... Nate Sell

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**All: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Leader: Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**All: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever.**

*– from Psalm 146*

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 35 – Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty ..... LOBE DEN HERREN

\* PRAYER OF ADORATION

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

\* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION .....Neil Dunnivant

**Holy and merciful God,  
in your presence we confess  
our failure to be what you created us to be.  
You alone know how often we have sinned  
in wandering from your ways  
in wasting your gifts,  
in forgetting your love.**

**By your loving mercy,  
help us to live in your light  
and abide in your ways,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*– Book of Common Worship*

*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.**

*As you share the good news of forgiveness in Jesus Christ, please offer one another these words: "The peace of Christ be with you."*

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: I Sing the Mighty Power of God..... ELLACOMB

There's not a plant or flower be - low But makes Thy glo - ries  
 known; And clouds a - rise, and tem - pests blow, By or - der from Thy  
 throne; While all that bor - rows life from Thee Is ev - er in Thy  
 care, And ev - ery - where that we can be, Thou, God, art pre - sent there.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WORD READ: *Revelation 21:1-5*

*Reader: Parker Stroud*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN..... Donna Chase

ANTHEM: And I Saw A New Heaven.....Edgar L. Bainton (1880-1956)

*Chancel Choir*

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:  
For the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;  
and there was no more sea.  
And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,  
coming down from God out of heaven,  
Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying,  
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,  
and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people,  
and God himself shall be with them and be their God.  
And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;  
And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying,  
Neither shall there be any more pain,  
for the former things are passed away.

*- Revelations XXI, vv. 1-4*

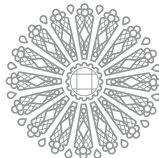
THE WORD READ: *1 Kings 19:1-16*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: "What are you doing here?".....Nate Sell

*A brief period of silence is reserved for personal reflection.*



# THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

\* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 463 – How Firm a Foundation..... FOUNDATION

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Alexandra Mauney

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*– The Apostles' Creed, traditional*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *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.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION.....Mary Ellen Poe

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: Music Down in My Soul.....Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

*Chancel Choir*

I hear music in the air.  
I can feel it in the air.  
There must be a God somewhere.  
Over my head I hear music in the air,  
There must be a God somewhere.  
Over my head I hear singing in the air,  
There must be a God somewhere.  
I got this music down in my soul;  
And it fills my heart with the joy of the Lord!  
I've got it joy, everlasting.  
I've got it peace, everlasting.  
I've got it love, everlasting.  
I've got it joy, everlasting.  
Love in my heart.  
Oh yes, I got peace in my soul.  
Oh yes, I got joy in my heart, joy today!  
Do you love the Lord? I love the Lord!

\* 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

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION ..... Nate Sell

CHORAL BENEDICTION: A Gaelic Blessing.....John Rutter (b. 1945)  
*Chancel Choir*

Deep peace to you, Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you, Deep peace of the gentle night to you.  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,  
Deep peace of Christ , of Christ the light of the world to you.  
- adapted from an old Gaelic rune

VOLUNTARY: Toccata in G Major .....Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)  
*John Alexander, organ*



### TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

*Nate Sell*, Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident  
*Neil Dunnivant*, Executive Pastor | *Alexandra Mauney*, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident |  
*Donna Chase*, Director of Christian Formation |  
*Parker Stroud*, Lay Reader | *Lizzie Albert and Evelyn Hare*, Acolytes |  
*John Alexander*, Director of Music and Principal Organist |  
*Robert Wells*, Director of Chancel Choir | *Chancel Choir*

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty” Text: Joachim Neander; Music: Stralsund *Erneuwerten Gesangbuch*.  
“I Sing the Mighty Power of God” Text: Isaac Watts; Music: *Gesangbuch der Herzogl*.  
“How Firm a Foundation” Text: “K” in John Rippon’s *A Selection of Hymns*; Music: American folk melody.  
“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*.

### 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:

*Danny Massie*, Interim Pastor | *Dolly Jacobs*, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care |  
*Keith Dove*, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident |  
*Lisa Witherspoon*, Associate Director of Children’s Ministry | *Hilda Courter*, Lay Reader |  
*James Keith*, Associate Director of Music for Rejoice! | *Rejoice! Band*

\* Please stand as you are able.

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**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 memory of Dr. Steven R. Fore by his children, Susan, Katherine, Whitney, and Matthew.

**DECEMBER 29: LAST FLOWER DATE AVAILABLE –** Honor or remember a friend or family member by donating flowers for our worship service in the Sanctuary. The flowers are accompanied by a note in the bulletin explaining their significance. Contact Carolyn Yow, 336.478.4768 or [cyow@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:cyow@fpcgreensboro.org) to learn more.

**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.

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

**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](http://fpcgreensboro.org/connect/our-media)

**HYMNS FOR THE UPCOMING REVIVAL –** Congregation members are invited to request favorite hymns that we will hear and sing as part of revival services. Send your favorites to Debby Foster, [dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336.478.4702, by Thursday.

**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)*

**THE PARKING ASSISTANCE MINISTRY TEAM (PAM)** has spaces on both sides of Greene Street reserved for our members and visitors with special needs. PAM volunteers can assist with guiding you to appropriate parking. If you are being driven to church, you may be dropped off at the Greene Street entrance while your driver parks.

**OVERFLOW PARKING:** Our neighbor Hanes Lineberry allows us to use its parking lot for overflow on Sunday mornings and other occasions. Please do not park there if you see yellow "Funeral Parking" signs at the access points; that means a service or event is scheduled at the funeral home.

**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.**



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!"

**FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN:** FPC welcomes children of all ages in worship and affirms that children are an integral part of our faith community. In order to ensure their safety, we ask that children be accompanied by an adult at all times inside and outside the Sanctuary, including restrooms and hallways.

*Nursery care* is available for children up to 6 years old on the first floor of the Mullin Life Center. They may stay in the nursery during the entire service or parents may walk children to the nursery after the children's message.

*Children's worship bags* are available on a cart in the Tower Room. Children may assemble a bag with crayons, coloring pages, small toys, and other items to help them engage in the worship service. Please return the bag and all items at the end of the worship service..

*Restrooms*, including a family room, are located off the hallway behind the Sanctuary. If you need to step out of the service temporarily with a child, the service can also be viewed via live stream in the Virginia Gilmer Room behind the Sanctuary,

*Questions about FPC children's ministries?*  
Please contact Lisa Witherspoon,  
lwitherspoon@fpcgreensboro.org.

## NEXT WEEK IN CHURCH SCHOOL

**9:15 a.m. – new start time!**

- **TED Talks Faith** – Matt Logan will lead "The Paradox of Choice" by Barry Schwartz. Bring your coffee from fellowship time to watch & discuss a short talk, curated by our Pastoral Residents and Discipleship director Matt Logan. All ages are welcome! Meets in the Spencer Love Room, Memorial 200.
- **New fall study, *Growing With*** – Kevin Murray leads on "Growing up Today: How Our Kids' Paths are Different from Ours". Class meets in Memorial 304.
- **Nate Sell will lead a discussion on "Growing Spiritually"** in the Homebuilders and Faith Matters Class. Class meets in Myers Loyalty Room, Smith 242.
- Sandie Gravett will lead a discussion on **the People of the Plain**. The Agape Class meets in the Garden Room, down the hall from the Welcome Center.
- **"Be Careful What You Pray For!"** a discussion led by Jack Harrington in the Commitment Class, which meets in Memorial 100, the Blair Hagan Room.
- **A discussion on lessons from *Samuel*** led by Dr. Charles Howell in YMBC. Class meets in Redhead Hall.
- **Exodus** – A deep study of the second book of the Bible, led by Gerard Davidson. Seekers Class meets in Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125.

## IN MEMORIAM

Stella Burson Efirid

Panache easily describes the way Stella Efirid lived her life—panache, not with flamboyance, but with enthusiasm, confidence, style, vitality, energy, and the exercise of greater than average God-given abilities. Stella Burson Efirid's ninety-one life-packed years ended May 27, 2019, and all who knew her will miss her caring, generous spirit.

Stella was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, but she grew up in Richmond, earning a degree from Richmond Polytechnic Institute which is now Virginia Commonwealth University. Her career of choice was occupational therapy where she cared for the injured, ill, or disabled, helping them to regain fundamental, everyday activity. In 1951, she married Dr. Ira P. Efirid Jr., and the couple moved to Greensboro in 1953, raising their family of five children here. As a mother, Stella was a loving support and ever-present guide for her children. Her governing precepts: first, one taken from the Boy Scouts: "Serve God and serve others," and, "You can do anything as long as you are willing to work for it; there is nothing to stop you. Make good decisions to help you achieve what you hope to obtain." Love of family expanded to interest in and love for all people she met—close friends and casual acquaintances alike. Stella was a person who embraced all.

Serving on numerous church committees, her leadership and organizational skills were sought after and she often found herself in leadership roles: she was one of the first women officers of the church; she chaired the 150th anniversary celebration of the church; she was a member of Women of the Church (Presbyterian Women); and for over forty years oversaw the church's communion linens and silver. Her service centered first at First Presbyterian Church but easily extended to many community organizations. She was a charter member of the Greensboro Golf Commission involved with the building of Bryan Park. Preservation Greensboro, Greensboro Opera Companions, the English Speaking Union, and the Greensboro Day School enjoyed her participation. A garden club and book club were further interests.

Stella's leisure activities most often included close friends and family. She enjoyed skiing, golf, bridge, jigsaw puzzles, and needlepoint. An especially treasured place for many years was a second home on the Rappahannock River in Virginia, where she frequently welcomed family and a group of close friends who called themselves "River Rats."

She is survived by her sister, Beverley B. Hundley of Richmond. She also is survived by her children and their spouses: Charles B. Efirid and John K. Gartling of Baltimore, Maryland; Robert I. Efirid and D. Forrest Hughes of Richmond; Kathryn E. Stover and David M. Stover of Raleigh; John B. Efirid and Michelle H. Efirid of Greensboro; and Anne E. Romano and L. Richard Romano of Virginia Beach. She also is survived by grandchildren Charles H. Efirid and his wife Lauren M. Efirid of Williamsburg, Virginia; Robert F. Efirid of Gunnison, Colorado; Dorothy E. Stabler and her husband William L. Stabler of Jackson, Mississippi; Margaret A. Efirid of Greensboro; Kathryn F. Stover of London, England; Elizabeth M. Stover of Winston-Salem; and Cutter L. Romano of Virginia Beach. Also surviving are great-grandchildren Alexander C. Efirid and Stella M. Efirid of Williamsburg, Virginia. Cousins and many nieces and nephews extend the family and will miss the caring arms of Stella Efirid.

The Session gives thanks for the unique gift of the life of Stella Burson Efirid. It asks that this memorial be placed in its records and that a copy be sent to the family.

— The Session of First Presbyterian Church