



A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND RECONCILIATION

SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AND FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 29, 2017

10:00 a.m. Prelude | 10:30 a.m. Service

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.*

PRELUDE

Voluntary

John Alexander, organ

Brethen, We Have Met to Worship.....Alice Parker (b. 1925)
First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir Ensemble

How Great Is Our God.....Johnathon Nelson
There is none like you/When I think about the Lord..... Traditional/James Huey
Saint James Presbyterian Church New Generation Praise Team

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling arr. Atkinson, Frazier, Niver
First Presbyterian Church Rejoice! Ensemble

Psalms 23.....Eddie James
St. James Presbyterian Church New Generation Praise Team

* CALL TO WORSHIPSid Batts and Diane Moffett

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Leader: Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask, and in our asking, prepares us to receive the gift of grace.

People: **Let us open our lives to God's healing presence, forsaking all that separates us from God and neighbor.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

– from the Book of Common Worship

* Please stand as you are able.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 371 – Lift High the CrossCRUCIFER

* WELCOME AND EXTENDING HOSPITALITY.....Sid Batts and Diane Moffett

STATEMENT OF PURPOSELynette Hawkins and Margaret Arbuckle

One hundred fifty years ago, several African American enslaved members of First Presbyterian Church who were emancipated as a result of the Civil War, left First Presbyterian Church and founded their own church, Saint James Presbyterian Church.

We gather today to celebrate where God has led these congregations and their ministry over the years and to offer our Confession of Sin for these years of racism and separation of God’s people, to seek forgiveness from God, to seek repentance and create reconciliation among our peoples and to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

* LITANY OF LAMENT AND CONFESSIONEustacia Marshall
Lara Musser Gritter
Josh Musser Gritter

Leader: O God, to remember our sins, to confess, to lament and to repent, requires that we trust the promise of your love, grace, and mercy. Fortify our trust.

People: Great is thy faithfulness. Your mercy is new every morning.
(Lamentations 3:22)

Leader: Today as God’s people we listen to God’s biblical call to remember. Just as Israel remembered their past enslavement in Egypt, today we remember and lament that our brothers and sisters in Christ were enslaved by their fellow members of First Presbyterian Church.

People: Lord, call us to remember.

Leader: In response to God’s vision of liberation, in 1867, freed men and women departed from First Presbyterian to serve God in freedom. Their departure gave birth to Saint James Presbyterian Church.

People: We remember that you call us to be one church. Our congregations were once one body. Yet the body suffered. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it. *(1 Corinthians 12:26)*

— A time for silence —

Leader: You call us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Lead us in the way of repentance and forgiveness.

People: May your Spirit overpower our caution with courage and love.
(2 Timothy 1:7)

Leader: We lament that this community was divided by racial inequality since its inception. We lament the pain still inflicted by injustice. We confess that we are part of a world where people are judged by the color of their skin instead of the content of their character. We lament that in our world the sins of white supremacy and racial prejudice distort your divine plan for our human lives. We confess that we are hemmed in by dividing walls of hostility.

People: We confess that in the cause of racial injustice we have been too slow to act, too indifferent to take a stand, too numb to feel the pain of others. We confess that we have not always lived up to your call to be ambassadors of love and justice. Yet you, O God, are able to break down the dividing wall of hostility. *(Ephesians 2:14 and 2 Corinthians 5:20:7)*

— *A time for silence* —

Leader: What does the Lord require of you?

People: To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. *(Micah 6:8)*

Leader: O God, make us people of justice. May we seek a world that decreases in harm and abounds in equity and fairness.

People: May we know that peace is not the absence of tension but the presence of justice. *(Jeremiah 6:14)*

Leader: O God, make us merciful unto ourselves and unto one another as we stumble along the path towards reconciliation.

People: May we truly love our neighbor as ourselves. *(Mark 12:31)*

Leader: O God, make us humble in navigating between justice and mercy. Make us humble in listening to one another's lives.

People: Forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

— *A time for silence* —

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit united a diverse people to proclaim the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead has united us with God and with each other. This same Spirit works in us to begin the process of reconciliation. In Christ, we are a new people. We are one body. Another day has begun! Lord, make us one body, one unity amidst diversity. May our congregations be filled with white people and black people, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak. Help us here today model reconciliation in a broken world. Thanks be to God for the Good News.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah! Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE Eustacia Marshall

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share signs of peace with one another.

— *The congregation is invited to share the peace together with one another.* —

* 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.

LITURGICAL DANCE: I Look to You Whitney Houston
Worshippers of Praise Dance

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN Donna Chase

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE: *Genesis 32:24-31*(PEW BIBLE, PAGE 30)

Reader: Raquel Stubblefield

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

FIRST HOMILY: Wrestling with God and Race.....Sid Batts

CALL FOR THE OFFERING.....Neil Dunnivant

OFFERTORY: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.....arr. Mack Wilberg (b.1955

FPC Chancel Choir and Saint James Mixed Choir

Come, thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Prone to wander Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it
Seal it for thy courts above.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.
Prone to wander Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it
Seal it for thy courts above.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it
Seal it for thy courts above.

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

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise
God, all creatures here below; Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-
lu-ia! Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-
lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

SECOND SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.....(PEW BIBLE, PAGE 181)

Reader: Anne Shoemaker

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SECOND HOMILY: We Have This Ministry Diane Moffett

HOLY CONVERSATIONS

"How will you plan to continue our work toward reconciliation?"



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 435 – We All Are One in Mission

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITHNeil Dunnivant

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. The church calls men and women to be reconciled to God and one another.

God has created the people of the earth to be one universal family. In God's reconciling love, God overcomes the barriers between brothers and sisters and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary. The church is called to bring all people to receive and uphold one another.

With an urgency born of hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

– adapted from The Presbyterian Confession of 1967

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *concluding with the Lord's Prayer*Dolly Jacobs

**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.

READING OF COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE Trip Adams

INVITATION TO LIFE CENTER RECEPTION AND PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE

* BENEDICTION.....Sid Batts and Diane Moffett

* CLOSING SONG: Lift Every Voice and Sing..... arr. Roland Carter
All musicians

The congregation is invited to sing the first verse with the choir.

**Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty,
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, till victory is won.**

Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light, Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we meet Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

- James Weldon Johnson



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Reverend Doctor Diane Givens Moffett, Senior Pastor, Saint James Presbyterian
Reverend Doctor Sidney F. Batts, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
Reverend Eustacia Moffett Marshall, Pastor of Faith Point Fellowship
Reverend Lara Musser Gritter, Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident
Reverend Josh Musser Gritter, Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident
Reverend Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor and Associate for Outreach Ministry
Reverend Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
Donna Chase, Director of Spiritual Formation
Lynette Hawkins, SJPC Elder
Margaret Arbuckle, FPC Elder
Trip Adams, FPC Elder and Clerk of Session
Raquel Stubblefield, Lay Reader
Anne Shoemaker, FPC Elder and Lay Reader
John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist
Doctor Robert Wells, Director of the Chancel Choir
Jasmine Evans, Director of New Generation Praise Team and Inspirational Ensemble
Kim Pemberton, Director of Worshipers of Praise Dance
Valerie D. Johnson, Chancel Choir Director
Doctor Ronald Campbell, Organist
New Generation Praise Team
Inspirational Ensemble
Rejoice! Ensemble
Worshipers of Praise Dance
First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir
Saint James Presbyterian Mixed Choir
Jazlyn Corpening, SJPC Acolyte
Elliott Kirkland, FPC Acolyte

JOINT SERVICE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Margaret Arbuckle | *Kelly Harrill* | *Lynette Hawkins*
Brenda Keys | *Charles Knox* | *Gretchen Robison*

* Please stand as you are able.

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“Lift High the Cross” Text: George William Kitchin, Music: Sidney Hugo Nicholson.

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Text: Thomas Ken; Music: Geistliche Kirchengesäng.

“We All Are One in Mission” Text: Rusty Edwards, Music: Memmingen ms., 17th century.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE, AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given by Suzanne and Bob Rhodes to the glory of God and in memory of our departed loved ones.

The flowers in the Tower Room are given to the glory of God and in honor of the wedding of Kelsey Elizabeth Hendrickson and William Medearis Butler who were married in our Sanctuary on Saturday, October 28, 2017.

"LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY ...": First Presbyterian Church would like to pray for you. Please fill out one of the prayer request cards, which are available in the Sanctuary, the Quiet Center on the second floor of the Smith Building, or the Mullin Life Center foyer outside of the Rejoice! worship service. Pastors read and pray these petitions each week. You may also email prayer requests to Dolly Jacobs, djacobs@fpcgreensboro.org. The FPC Intercessory Prayer Group meets Thursdays at 8 am in the Quiet Center, Smith 231. Contact Dolly Jacobs for more information or to join.

OUR SANCTUARY WORSHIP SERVICE IS LIVE-STREAMED on the web, and can be accessed Sunday mornings 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).

TODAY'S CELEBRATION CONTINUES NOVEMBER 13 at a luncheon of the Presbyterian Women, noon in Mullin Life Center. Everyone is invited, and the program will be about the history of both congregations. November 8 is the deadline to get tickets. Purchase tickets (\$8) at 336.478.4799 or receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will meet tomorrow, October 30, at 10 am in Saint James' classrooms 1 & 2, 820 Ross Avenue. Members of First Presbyterian and Saint James are invited to attend.

SAINT JAMES' WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY will continue their study on the themes of *Exodus*, picking up with Chapters 5 & 6 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

FAITH POINT FELLOWSHIP'S SOUL FOOD CONVERSATIONS will meet Thursday at 7 pm in Saint James' Fellowship Hall. This is a different kind of Bible study targeted to young adults (18-35 years old) with fearless conversations around faith and everyday life. Join us and learn about our theme, "We are the 12." A free home-cooked meal is served at 6:15 pm, and childcare will be available. If you need a ride, call or text 336.690.8541 by 5 pm Thursday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NOTES

SOME EXTERIOR DOORS TO BE LOCKED beginning next Sunday morning. Although locked from the outside, these doors will remain accessible from the interior of the building • the doors on either side of Sanctuary, that lead downstairs into first floor • the doors from the upper and lower parking decks into Shetler Building • the door into the lower level of Mullin Life Center from the playground in the courtyard • the door into the Redhead Hall kitchen from the courtyard. • *Note: other Redhead Hall doors will be open.*

BECOMING A MEMBER: We welcome anyone who trusts in Jesus Christ to join our community of growing disciples. New members are received after completing Explore FPC, a class about our church and its ministries. The class will be offered again over two consecutive Sundays, February 4 & 11, 8:30 -10:15 am in the Virginia Gilmer Room. To RSVP, including child care requests, contact Rachel Sommers, rsommers@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4722.

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.

DON'T ASSUME ... that the pastors know that you or other church 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 pray for and extend a hand in prayer and care.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME YOU to the worship of God as a joint community of faith. One in Christ, we unite this morning to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Saint James' founding.

IF YOU ARE A VISITOR, we encourage you to wear a name tag, included in your bulletin this morning, and also 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. Children in second grade and up are encouraged to participate with the congregation in the full service. Children age three and under may enjoy the nursery. Children are also encouraged to lead in worship by being acolytes and lay readers, and by joining our children's choirs. Sign up for the children's e-news to learn about various opportunities for your child, and the whole family, to get involved in worship.

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: Children are invited to participate in worship by using the **worship bags** with new activities, located in the Tower Room, narthex, and Greene Street entrances. Please return bags to any of these locations at the end of the service.

Worship Enrichment is our children's worship time during the sermon for four-year-olds through first grade. Children will return to the service during the Hymn of Response.

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.

- **Agape** – Margaret Arbuckle will speak on race relations. Garden Room.
- **Can I Ask That** – For parents of youth (grades 6-12), based on the book *Can I Ask That? Volume 2: More Hard Questions about God and Faith*. Memorial 304.
- **Commitment Class** – Joins with Faith, Community, Action class.
- **Faith, Community, Action** – Guest Speaker Larry Morse speaks on housing disparities in Guilford County. Virginia Gilmer Room.
- **Faith Matters & Homebuilders** – "History & Art" led by guest speaker Shelley Zuraw. Myers Loyalty Room, Smith 242.
- **GATHER: Young Adult Study** – Discussing how Scripture forms, informs, and transforms the way our faith operates in the world, with an emphasis on *Genesis*. Led by Pastoral Residents Josh & Lara Musser Gritter, in Memorial 200, Spencer Love Room.
- **Seekers** – A study on the *Book of Genesis* continues. Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125.
- **YMBC** – Guest speaker Gerald Donnelly on "Praying the Psalms" through November. This class will focus on the variety of Psalms and how we might, through the Psalms, speak our minds and hearts honestly and fully before God. Redhead Hall.

HERITAGE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, North Carolina was formed under the pastorate of Reverend William D. Paisley in 1824 by twelve founders, who were firmly committed to the Gospel of Christ Jesus; and

WHEREAS four of those original founding members were enslaved persons: Tony Paisley, Milly Paisley, Molly Paisley, and Kezia Carson; and

WHEREAS by April of 1859 the number of enslaved communicants at First Presbyterian Church had grown to fourteen plus Betsy Mitchell, a "Free" person of African descent; and

WHEREAS between April 1859 and November 1866 another 23 enslaved persons were baptized or admitted into the community and fellowship of First Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS at the end of the Civil War and with the emancipation of all enslaved persons, all the former enslaved members of First Presbyterian Church except Sibby Moderwell withdrew from the congregation and in 1867 founded the Saint James Presbyterian Church in Greensboro; and

WHEREAS on this 150th anniversary of Saint James Presbyterian Church, the Session of First Presbyterian Church is pleased and humbled to acknowledge, claim and celebrate our common roots and heritage with Saint James Presbyterian Church, not only in the worship of Jesus Christ, but also in the church history that we share; and

WHEREAS as to those former enslaved members and bold pilgrims into their new faith community, we venerate and honor their strength and courage, their determination and remarkable grit, their purpose and steadfastness, their vision and confidence, their dignity and resilience, as well as their faith, hope, and abiding trust.

NOW THEREFORE with gratitude abounding, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina, does hereby embrace, rejoice in, and proclaim for all the world to know now and for all time that we are, and have since our beginnings been, joined together in history, fellowship, and in service to the Kingdom of God with our full brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus at Saint James Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina, and celebrate with them our joint heritage. To God be all honor, praise and glory!