



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

10:30 a.m.

MULLIN FORUM SUNDAY/  
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

## 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

Startle us, O God, with your truth,  
and open our minds to your Spirit,  
that we may be one with Christ our Lord,  
and serve as faithful disciples,  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THE VISION OF GOD

VOLUNTARY: Fantasie and Fugue in g minor..... Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)  
*John Alexander, organ*

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE..... Danny Massie

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On a high mountain, Jesus was transfigured,  
**Many: and God said: This is my Beloved Son.**

One: As God spoke, calling light out of darkness,  
**Many: God's glory shines in the face of Jesus Christ.**

One: At the mountain of the Lord bow down.  
**Many: for the Lord our God is holy. Let us worship God!**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 12 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise..... ST. DENIO

\* PRAYER OF ADORATION



## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

\* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people.  
You have called us to be the church,  
to continue the mission of Jesus to our lonely and confused world.  
Yet we acknowledge that we are more apathetic than active,  
isolated than involved, callous than compassionate,  
obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving.  
Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins.  
Remove the obstacles preventing us  
from being your representatives to a broken world.  
Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit,  
and may your Spirit produce in us a bountiful harvest of good fruit,  
of justice and righteousness throughout the earth.  
This we ask in the powerful name of Jesus. 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.**

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

CHORAL RESPONSE: Lord, We Are Your People .....Mark Patterson  
*Credo and Canticle Choirs*  
*Radha Upton piano*

Lord, we are your people, led by your love, fed by your grace.  
Lord, we are your people.  
Lead us today, teach us we pray, help us to follow your ways.  
Help us to know which way to go, help us obey your commands.  
When others turn away, give us the strength to stay faithful and true,  
Following you to the end.



## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WORD READ: *Luke 12:35-48*

*Reader: Vivian Guthrie*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN .....Danny Massie

ANTHEM: New Wine ..... Hillsong  
*Rejoice! Ensemble*

In the crushing,  
In the pressing,  
You are making  
New wine.  
In the soil, I  
Now surrender.  
You are breaking  
New ground.

*ANTHEM* continues, over

So I yield to You and to Your careful hand.  
When I trust You I don't need to understand.  
Make me Your vessel,  
Make me an offering,  
Make me whatever You want me to be.  
I came here with nothing,  
But all You have given me.  
Jesus, bring new wine out of me.

'Cause where there is new wine,  
There is new power.  
There is new freedom  
And the kingdom is here.  
I lay down my old flames  
To carry Your new fire today.  
So make me Your vessel,  
Make me an offering.  
Make me whatever You want me to be.  
God, I came here with nothing,  
But all You have given me.  
Jesus, bring new wine out of me

THE WORD READ: *Isaiah 5:1-7*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: Great Expectations .....Luke Powery



## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 367 – Come, Ye Thankful People, Come .... ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH..... Donna Chase

**God sends us to strive for justice.  
God has reached out to those who suffer injustice  
and defended the excluded, the poor, and the hungry.**

**The Lord is moving toward the time  
when justice will roll down like waters  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

**We are persuaded God is at work here and now  
when people deal fairly with each other  
and labor to change customs and structures  
that enslave and oppress human beings.**

**We believe God sends us to work with others  
to correct the growing disparity  
between rich and poor nations,  
to achieve fair legislation justly administered and enforced,  
to make the operation of courts and penal institutions  
more just and humane.**

**We are charged to root out prejudice and racism  
from our hearts and institutions.**

**We are commissioned to stand with woman and men  
of all ages, races and classes  
as they struggle for dignity and respect  
and the change to exercise power for the common good.**

**We must not countenance in the church and its institutions  
the inequities we see to correct in the world.**

**We must be willing to make sure amends as we can  
for centuries of injustice which the church condoned.**

*– from A Declaration of Faith*

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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: The Call of Wisdom..... Will Todd (b. 1970)

*Chancel Choir*

Lord of wisdom, Lord of truth, Lord of justice, Lord of mercy;  
walk beside us down the years till we see you in your glory.

Striving to attain the heights, turning in a new direction,  
entering a lonely place, welcoming a friend or stranger.

*[Chorus]:*

I am here, I am with you.

I have called: do you hear me?

I am here, I am here, I am with you.

Silver is of passing worth, gold is not of constant value,  
Jewels sparkle for a while; what you look for us not lasting.

*[Chorus]*

Rulers govern under me with my insight and my wisdom.

Those who know me know my love; those who seek me find their answer.

*[Chorus]*

God the Father and the Son, Holy Spirit co-eternal.

Glory be ascribed to you, now and to the end of ages.

*[Chorus]*

\* 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 -



\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN: No.755 – Alleluia! Laud and Blessing ..... WEISSE FLAGGEN

*As we bear the Word into the world, we turn to face the back doors of  
the church as we hear the charge & benediction*

\* BENEDICTION AND CHARGE ..... Luke Powery

VOLUNTARY: Toccata from *Suite* ..... Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)  
*John Alexander, organ*



### TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

*Luke Powery, Dean of Duke University Chapel and Mullin Forum Guest Preacher*  
*Danny Massie, Interim Pastor | Donna Chase, Director of Christian Formation*  
*Vivian Guthrie, Lay Reader | Lizzie Albert and Nick VanGorden, Acolytes*  
*John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist*  
*Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir | James Keith, Director of Music Ministry for Rejoice!*  
*Radha Upton, Piano | Credo and Canticle Choirs*  
*Rejoice Band | Chancel Choir*

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” Text: Walter Chalmers Smith; Music: Welsh folk melody.

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” Text: Henry Alford; Music: George Job Elvey.

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Genevan Psalter*.

“Alleluia! Laud and Blessing” Text: Michael Morgan; Music: *Tochter Sion*.

\* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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## *About Luke Powery*



The Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery is the dean of Duke University Chapel and associate professor of homiletics at Duke Divinity School. A national leader in the theological study of the art of preaching, Powery regularly delivers sermons at Duke Chapel as well as at churches throughout the U.S. and abroad. He is often a keynote speaker and lecturer at educational institutions, conferences, symposia, and retreats.

Powery was ordained by the Progressive National Baptist Convention and has served in an ecumenical capacity in churches throughout Switzerland, Canada, and the U.S. Prior to his appointment at Duke, he served as the Perry and Georgia Engle Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary. He received his B.A. in music with a concentration in vocal performance from Stanford University, his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and his Th.D. from Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto.

He is married to Gail Powery, and the couple has two children.

His teaching and research interests are located at the intersection of preaching, worship, pneumatology, and culture, particularly expressions of the African diaspora. He has written three books: *Spirit Speech: Lament and Celebration in Preaching*; *Dem Dry Bones: Preaching, Death, and Hope*; and his latest book, *Rise Up, Shepherd! Advent Reflections on the Spirituals*.

## *About The Mullin Forum*

The Joe and Betty Mullin Preaching and Teaching Forum is designed for rejuvenation and rejoicing. If you are a pastor, a church professional or lay leader, this forum is a place to rest and rediscover your gifts and rejoice in the God who gave them.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church established the forum in 1991 to honor the former minister of this church and his wife. The forum brings “distinguished preachers, teachers or similar guests” to preach for the community and conduct workshops for ministers. Past speakers have included Fred Craddock, Samuel Proctor, Walter Brueggemann, Joanna M. Adams, Rodger Nishioka, John Buchanan, Nora T. Tisdale, Tom Tewell, Thomas Troeger, Barbara Brown Taylor, James A. Forbes Jr., Anna Carter Florence, Tom Long, Frances Taylor Gench, Brian Blount, Kenda Creasy Dean, Diana Butler Bass, Ted Wardlaw, Scott Black Johnston, Shannon Johnson Kershner, and Mel Bringle.

Contributions to the Mullin Forum fund, established at Dr. Mullin’s retirement in 1988, underwrite this project. Contributions are accepted.



**THE LITURGICAL COLOR *WHITE*** seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors' stoles signifies the special days of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

**ABOUT THIS MORNING'S FLOWERS:** The chancel flowers are given today by the Mullin Forum Committee to the glory of God and in memory of Betty D. and Joseph B. Mullin.

**FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE** – You can honor or remember a friend or family member by donating flowers for our Sunday morning worship service in the Sanctuary. The flowers are accompanied by a note in the bulletin explaining their significance. The following dates are open: May 17; July 26; August 23; December 27. Contact Carolyn Yow, 336.478.4768 or [cyow@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:cwow@fpcgreensboro.org) to learn more.

**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).

**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 pastor-on-call at 336.908.8615 and let us know so that we can extend a hand in prayer and care.

**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.

**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.

**SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NEWS:** You can sign up for our weekly E-News and our Thursday morning Sunday Preview at [fpcgreensboro.org/connect/our-media](http://fpcgreensboro.org/connect/our-media).

**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.**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 1** – At its meeting on February 17, the Session called a meeting of the congregation for March 1, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary, for the purpose of presenting the slate of officer nominees for election. Nominees are: Bill Benjamin, David Cashwell, Katherine Farless, Emily Faucher, Jack Harrington, Robby Hassell, Catherine Johns, Christie Mitchell, Allison Morrisette, Chuck Norman, Chip Permar, Lori Richardson, Hunter Ricks, Karen Rinehart, Karen Schaeede, Doug Shaw, John Sullivan, Andy Supple, Camille Townsend, Martha Turner; youth elders, Mac Faircloth and Cameron Jones; and trustee, Jim Hegner. *More information on the nominees is available at [fpcgreensboro.org](http://fpcgreensboro.org). Click on "Members" at the top of the home page.*

**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.

**WINTER IS UPON US!** To begin receiving FPC alerts for weather and closings, text FPCGSO to 41411 and follow the instructions to opt in. *(Standard text rates may be applicable based on your individual carrier.)*

**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)*

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

**March 1, 9:15 a.m.**

- Donna Chase will lead a discussion on the book, *The Road Back to You – An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery*. Homebuilders and Faith Matters Class meets in Myers Loyalty Room, Smith 242.
- "Working Through Tough Theological Issues" continues, led by Sandie Gravett in YMBC, with the Agape Class joining. This series addresses some of the toughest theological questions of the 21st century, and how contemporary theologians grapple with them. Redhead Hall.
- **TED Talks Faith** – Bring your coffee from fellowship time to watch & discuss a short talk. Matt Logan will lead, all ages are welcome. Corl 305.
- **Seekers Class** begins a study of Paul's Letter to the Romans, led by Gerard Davidson. Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125.
- **Confirmation Parents** meet in Memorial 300, and Kevin Murray leads the discussion, "What Does It Mean to Show Christ's Love?"

**FELLOWSHIP IN THE WELCOME CENTER with coffee & snacks: 8:45-10:30 a.m., hosted by Susan Devaney & Steve Kaczmarek.**