

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 3, 2020

10:30 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

THE VISION OF GOD

VOLUNTARY: Toccata primaGiralamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Dolly Jacobs

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From ages past no one has heard,

All: No ear has perceived,

Leader: No eye has seen any God besides you,

All: Who works for those who wait for him.

Let us worship our God!

– from Psalm 64:4

HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 54 – Make a Joyful Noise to God!..... (SEE PAGE 2)

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent Jesus, our good shepherd, to gather us together.

May we not wander from his flock, but follow wherever he leads us,

listening for his voice and staying near him, until we are safely in your

fold, to live with you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives

and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and

forever. Amen.

Make a Joyful Noise to God! 54

(Psalm 66)

1 Make a joy - ful noise to God! All cre - a - tion sings your praise!
2 Come and see what God has done, great the bless - ings to the just:
3 Bless the Lord, our ref - uge sure; let our songs of praise be heard!

Great your won - ders here dis - played, un - ex - celled through - out our days.
walked the cho - sen through the sea, brought their en - e - mies to dust.
By whose jus - tice, we are tried; by whose grace, our guilt de - ferred.

Glo - rious is your sa - cred name, a - ges old, yet still the same.
Let us lift a thank - ful voice for God's mer - cies, and re - joice!
When our life's sure end shall come, bring us to your heaven - ly home.

This paraphrase of Psalm 66 maintains a corporate tone more suitable for congregational singing than does the original psalm, which moves to a personal narrative in its latter part. The reference to "all creation" is strengthened by the associations of the tune (see no. 14).

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE: *Psalm 66*

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name." Selah

Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let the rebellious not exalt themselves. Selah

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows, those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

SECOND SCRIPTURE: *Romans 4:13-25*

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."

Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

SERMON: "The Only Rival to an Easter Faith"Danny Massie



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 616 – Our God Is an Awesome God.....AWESOME

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 2/2 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). Chords above are C, G, D, Em. The second staff has the same key signature and time signature. The notes are: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). Chords above are C, G, Am, Em, B7, Em. The lyrics are: 'Our God is an awe-some God who reigns from heav-en a-bove with wis - dom, power, and love; our God is an awe-some God!'.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITHNewton Cowan

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

**Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,

**breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

With believers in every time and place,

**we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

– from A Brief Statement 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.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Please participate in the offering by giving online at fpcgreensboro.org/give or by mailing your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION: O Lord, Thou Art My God and King

arranged by Leland Sateren

Chancel Choir Ensemble
John Alexander, piano

O Lord, thou art my God and King;
Thee will I magnify and praise:
I will thee bless, and gladly sing
Unto thy holy name always.
Each day I rise I will thee bless,
And praise thy name time without end:
Much to be praised, and great God is;
His greatness none can comprehend.
Race shall thy works praise unto race,
The mighty acts show done by thee;
I will speak of the glorious grace
And honor of thy majesty.

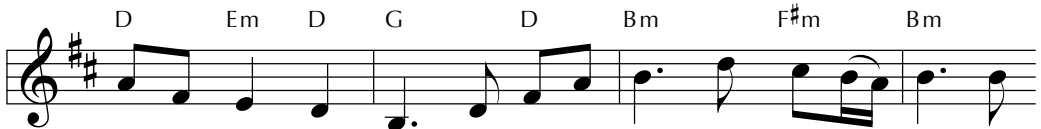
Thy wondrous works I will record:
By all the might shall be extolled,
Of all thy dreadful acts, O Lord:
And I thy greatness will unfold.
They utter abundantly,
Utter the memory of thy goodness great;
And shall sing praises cheerfully,
Whilst they thy righteousness relate.
O Lord, thou art my God and King,
I will thee bless and gladly sing..

- Psalm 145

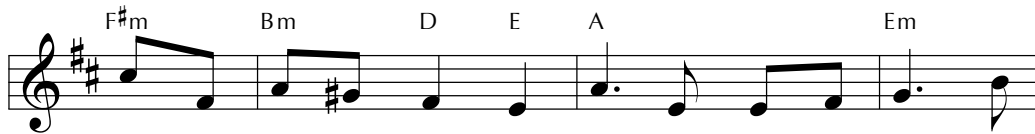
CLOSING HYMN: No. 270 – O Lord, You Are My God and King..... JERUSALEM



1 O Lord, you are my God and King, and I will
2 How rich in grace are you, O Lord, full of com -
3 Your works will give you thanks, O Lord; your saints your



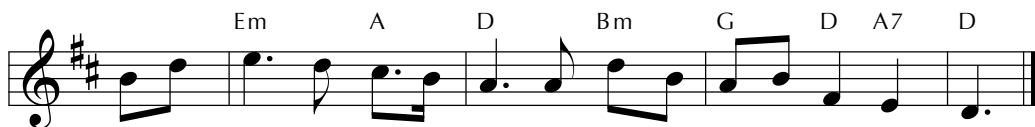
ev - er bless your name; I will ex - tol you ev - ery day, and
pas - sion, mer - ci - ful, your an - ger al - ways slow to rise; your
might-y acts will show, till all the peo - ples of the earth your



ev - er - more your praise pro - claim. You, Lord, are great - ly
stead - fast love you show to all, for you are good in
king - dom, pow - er, glo - ry know. E - ter - nal is your



to be praised; your great-ness is be - yond our thought; all
all your ways; your crea-tures know your con - stant care. To
king - dom, Lord, for - ev - er strong, for - ev - er sure; while



gen - er - a - tions shall tell forth the might-y won-ders you have wrought.
all your works your love ex-tends; all souls your ten-der mer-cies share.
gen - er - a - tions rise and die, your high do-min-ion will en - dure.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Danny Massie

VOLUNTARY: Allegro Vivace from *Symphony no. V* Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)
John Alexander, organ



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Danny Massie, Interim Pastor
Newton Cowan, Pastoral Care
Donna Chase, Director of Christian Formation
John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist
Chancel Choir Ensemble

“Make a Joyful Noise to God!” Text: Michael Morgan; Music: Conrad Kocher.

“Our God Is an Awesome God” Text and Music: Rich Mullins.

“O Lord, You Are My God and King” Text: *The New Metrical Version of the Psalms*; Music: C. Hubert H. Parry.

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
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.

WORSHIP AND STUDY DURING CAMPUS CLOSING:

All church-related events are canceled until further notice. Our Sunday Livestream service will be available on our home page, fpcgreensboro.org, and also on our live streaming page, fpcgreensboro.org/streaming-live. Also check our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, North Carolina) as we are working to air the service there as well.

WHILE THE CAMPUS IS CLOSED, PLEASE JOIN US FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION ONLINE

- ▷ On our home page, FPCGREENSBORO.ORG, messages on our First Elm Notes blog from pastors and staff
- ▷ At FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/DIGITAL-FORMATION you will find the latest online classes, plus an archive of things you may have missed.

SECUREGIVE MOBILE APP – In addition to giving online (fpcgreensboro.org/give), you can download the SecureGive mobile giving app for Apple  or Android  (*scroll over for clickable links*). You can use the app as a guest or create an account. It's quick, easy, secure, and allows you to make a donation using a bank card.

FIND FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA – Members are sharing great photos, comments and more! Follow and Like us on Facebook (search “First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro”), Youtube (“[fpcgreensboro](https://www.youtube.com/fpcgreensboro)”) and Instagram (“[1stpresgso](https://www.instagram.com/1stpresgso)”) to get more of our posts in your newsfeed. Or if you're reading this online, just click on the links below.



We will continue to update you regularly and adapt as things change. Please keep in touch:

- **IF YOU HAVE A PASTORAL EMERGENCY**, contact the Pastor on Call at 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number.
- **CHECK FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/CORONA-VIRUS** and our social media for updates
- **SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY E-NEWS AND OUR THURSDAY MORNING SUNDAY PREVIEW** at fpcgreensboro.org/connect/our-media.
- **SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS:** Text FPCGSO to 41411 and follow the instructions to opt in. (*Standard text rates may be applicable based on your individual carrier.*)

THE SADYE BOWLES FUND CAN OFFER

ASSISTANCE: Funds are currently available to help pay for needs such as assisted living at home or in a facility, prescription drugs, and medical and dental care for *FPC members aged 55 and over*. Applicants must demonstrate a need for financial assistance, live within 50 miles of Greensboro, and complete an application. For more information, contact Maggie Turner at 336.478.4724.