

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUNE 7, 2020

10:30 a.m.

## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*Please sign the online Welcome Pad.  
Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.*

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Christ Jesus, risen Savior,  
breathe on us with your Spirit  
and fill us with your peace.  
Enter into our doubt and fear  
and touch us with your grace.  
Bless us with the faith to proclaim  
that you are our Lord and God,  
risen from the dead and send us  
out to serve you and others  
in faith and obedience. Amen.

## THE VISION OF GOD

VOLUNTARY: Prelude in e minor .....Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)  
*John Alexander, organ*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Neil Dunnivant

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus Christ appeared to the disciples.

All: **We have grace and peace from God who was and is to come.**

One: The disciples received the Holy Spirit.

All: **We have grace and peace from God who was and is to come.**

One: The Lord God is the Alpha and Omega.

All: **We have grace and peace from God who was and is to come.**

One: Let us worship God.

## HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 299 – You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim..... HANOVER

1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,  
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save,  
3 "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"  
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad Christ's won - der - ful name.  
he still re - mains nigh; his pres - ence we have.  
Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son.  
all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

The name all vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,  
The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,  
The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,  
all hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

whose king - dom is glo - rious, who rules o - ver all.  
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.  
 fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.  
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fi - nite love!

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, in every age you have raised up women and men to live and die in faith. Forgive our indifference to your will, our ignorance of your ways. You have commanded us to speak, but we have been silent. You have called us to do what is just, but we have been fearful. Have mercy on us, your fearful and faithless followers. Keep ever before us the vision and beside us the company of our risen Lord. By the power of your Holy Spirit enable us to grow and serve as individuals and as a community of faith in ways that bring honor to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

\* 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.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 28:16-20*

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

SECOND SCRIPTURE: *Revelation 1:1-21*

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near. John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

I, John, your brother who share with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place

after this. As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

SERMON: What Christ Expects of His Church

The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia

1. Introduction and Context .....Danny Massie

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

HYMN OF RESPONSE: I Know Whom I Have Believed.....EL NATHAN



1. I know not why God's won - drous grace To me He hath made known,  
 2. I know not how this sav - ing faith To me He did im - part,  
 3. I know not how the Spir - it moves, Con - vinc - ing men of sin,  
 4. I know not what of good or ill May be re - served for me,  
 5. I know not when my Lord may come, At night or noon - day fair,



Nor why un - wor - thy, Christ in love Re - deemed me for His own.  
 Nor how be - liev - ing in His Word Wrought peace with - in my heart.  
 Re - veal - ing Je - sus thru the Word, Cre - at - ing faith in Him.  
 Of wea - ry ways or gold - en days, Be - fore His face I see.  
 Nor if I walk the vale with Him, Or "meet Him in the air."



But "I know whom I have be - liev - ed, And am per - suad - ed that He is



a - ble To keep that which I've com - mit - ted Un - to Him a - gainst that day."

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH .....Alexandra Mauney

**We acknowledge that Christ chooses to be known in the world  
through this community of ordinary people,  
therefore we dare not despise or abandon the church.**

**Christ is the head of the church,  
therefore we are responsible to Christ  
when we make policy and decisions in the church.**

**Christ is the foundation of the church,  
therefore it will not fall despite our weakness.**

**We are confident that the Lord of the church  
will judge and defeat our sinful intentions and actions,  
help us in our weakness and blindness,  
and use the church to accomplish his purposes. Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Leader:** And now, with one voice as we make our pastoral search  
journey, let us pray:

**People:** **Almighty God, we ask your guidance and clear discernment  
for our Pastor Nominating Committee and for this  
congregation as we seek a new pastor for our family of faith.  
Be present in all deliberations; make all aware of your will for  
us; and keep us mindful of our calling to serve you in faithful  
ministry and mission through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*followed by 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](http://fpcgreensboro.org/give)  
or by mailing your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.*

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION: And I Saw A New Heaven ..... Edgar L. Bainton (1880-1956)  
*Chancel Choir Ensemble*

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

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION ..... Danny Massie

CLOSING HYMN: No. 459 – O Word of God Incarnate..... (SEE PAGE 8)

VOLUNTARY: Final ..... César Franck (1822-1890)  
*John Alexander, organ*



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

*Neil Dunnavsant, Executive Pastor*

*Danny Massie, Interim Pastor*

*Alexandra Mauney, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident*

*Lisa Witherspoon, Associate Director of Children's Ministry*

*John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist*

*Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir*

*Chancel Choir Ensemble*

“You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim” Text: Charles Wesley; Music: Anon.

“I Know Whom I Have Believed” Text: El Nathan; Music: James McGranahan.

“O Word of God Incarnate” Text: William Walsham How; Music: *Neuvermehrtes Meiningsches Gesangbuch*.

# 459 O Word of God Incarnate

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 2 The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine;  
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
 and still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine.  
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
 a - mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
 till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

The opening four lines of this hymn celebrate attributes of Christ that are revealed through holy Scripture, which serves as a lantern, a chart, and a compass for the church in seeking to know Christ better. The setting of the tune comes from Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.





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](http://fpcgreensboro.org), and also on our live streaming page, [fpcgreensboro.org/streaming-live](http://fpcgreensboro.org/streaming-live). Also check our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, North Carolina) as we air the service there as well.

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

- ▷ On our home page, [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG), messages on our North Elm Notes blog from pastors and staff
- ▷ At [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/DIGITAL-FORMATION](http://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](http://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.

**TEXT-TO-GIVE:** Give from your phone via text. See full instructions at [fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text](http://fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text)

**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") and Instagram ("1stpresgso") to get more of our posts in yourr 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](http://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](http://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.

### IN MEMORIAM

Catherine Carson "Patsy" Davidson  
May 29, 2020