

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUNE 28, 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.*

POEM FOR REFLECTION

It may be that when we no longer know what to do
we have come to our real work,
and that when we no longer know which way to go
we have come to our real journey.
The mind that is not baffled is not employed.
The impeded stream is the one that sings.

– "Our Real Work" by Wendell Berry

THE VISION OF GOD

VOLUNTARY: Prelude and Fugue in C..... Vincent Lübeck (1654-1740)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Dolly Jacobs

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth
I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**All: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

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

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis-mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

yet joy comes with the morn - ing sun, a peace that is not vain.
 I begged for help; to you I cried with loud and bit - ter tears.
 Ac - cept my long - ing heart's re - quest and from death set me free.
 You are my God, for - ev - er - more. My life shall sing your praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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: *Genesis 22:1-14*

Reader: Erwin Fuller

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son

FIRST SCRIPTURE continues, over

Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGEKeith Dove

ANTHEM: Just as I AmBob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Chancel Choir Ensemble

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bid'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though toss'd about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings within and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because thy promise I believe
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am (thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;)
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
Here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

- Charlotte Elliot (1789-1871)

SECOND SCRIPTURE: *John 6:53-69*

So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “*This is a hard word**; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” (* – literal translation from the Greek)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

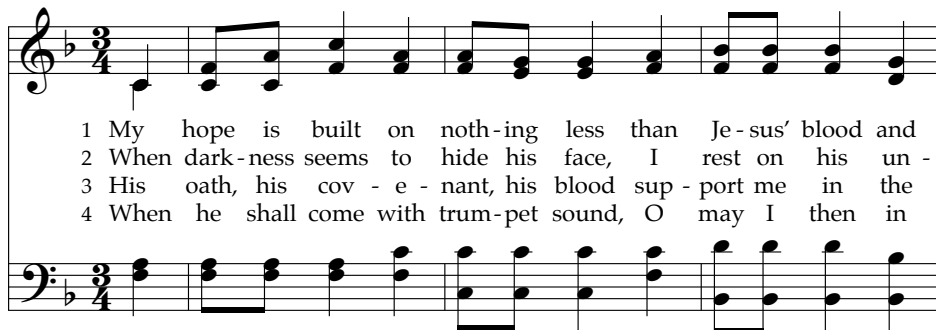
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: A Hard Word Nate Sell

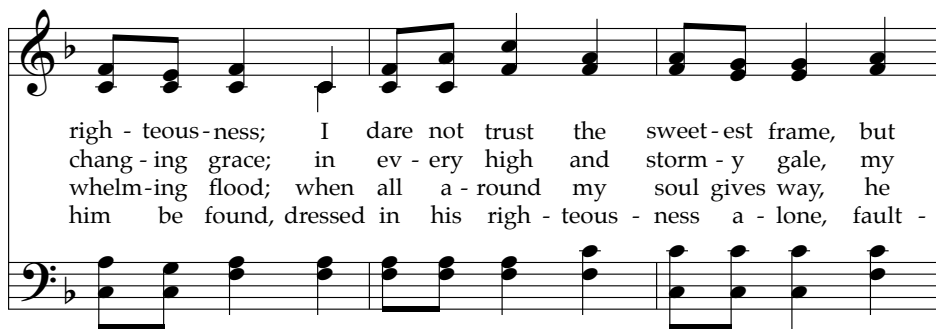


WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 353 – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less.....SOLID ROCK

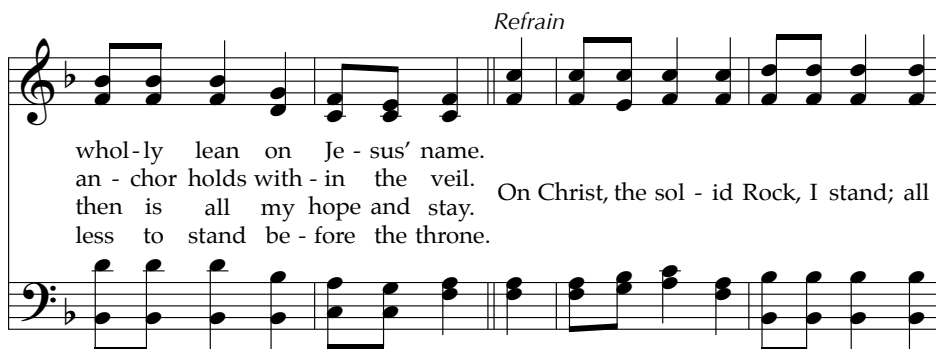


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un -
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in



righ - teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
him be found, dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain



whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all
then is all my hope and stay.
less to stand be - fore the throne.



oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

**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

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 or by mailing your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION: How Can I Keep from Singing?arranged by Eric Nelson
Chancel Choir Ensemble

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to the Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love commands both heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Nate Sell

CLOSING HYMN: No. 320 – The Church of Christ in Every Age WAREHAM

1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care | *Keith Dove*, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident
Nate Sell, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident |
Erwin Fuller, Lay Reader | *John Alexander*, Director of Music and Principal Organist
Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir | *Chancel Choir Ensemble*

“How Firm a Foundation” Text: “K” in John Rippon’s *A Selection of Hymns*; Music: American folk melody.
 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” Text: Edward Mote; Music: William Batchelder Bradbury.
 “The Church of Christ in Every Age” Text: Fred Pratt Green; Music: William Knapp.

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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.

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 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 North 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.

TEXT-TO-GIVE: Give from your phone via text. See full instructions at 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 your newsfeed. Or if you're reading this online, just click on these links:



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.