



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
July 5, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

A REFLECTION PRIOR TO WORSHIP

Once to ev'ry man and nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth and falsehood,
For the good or evil side;
Some great cause, some great decision,
Off'ring each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by forever
'Twixt that darkness and that light.

Then to side with truth is noble,
When we share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit,
And 'tis prosperous to be just;
Then it is the brave man chooses
While the coward stands aside,
Till the multitude make virtue
Of the faith they had denied.

Tho' the cause of evil prosper,
Yet the truth alone is strong;
Tho' her portion be the scaffold,
And upon the throne be wrong:
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above His own.

– James Russell Lowell (1819-1891)

THE VISION OF GOD

Gathering Music: Hymn No. 329 – *God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength*

(SEE PAGE 2)

Welcome, Invitation and Congregational Life

Neil Dunnavant

Ministry Moment for Hot Dish & Hope

Camille Townsend

329 God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

(Psalm 46)

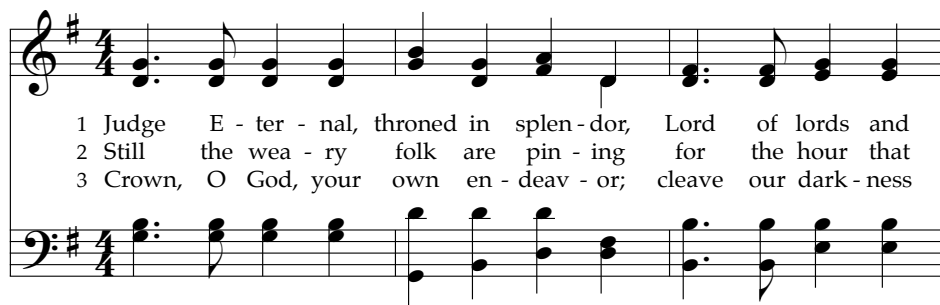
1 God is our ref - uge and our strength, our
 2 Though hills a - mid the seas be cast, though
 3 Where God a - bides a riv - er flows; that
 4 Since God is in the midst of it, the

ev - er - pres - ent aid, and there - fore, though the
 foam - ing wa - ters roar, yea, though the might - y
 cit - y will re - joice. But na - tions fear and
 cit - y walls shall stand, se - cure and safe with

earth be moved, we will not be a - fraid;
 bil - lows shake the moun - tains on the shore.
 king - doms shake be - fore God's thun - dering voice.
 God's sure help, when trou - ble is at hand.

The first two stanzas of this very condensed paraphrase of Psalm 46 were created early in the 20th century, and the last two stanzas were prepared near its end. The text is set to a late 16th-century psalm tune that comes from the first such collection to give tunes names.

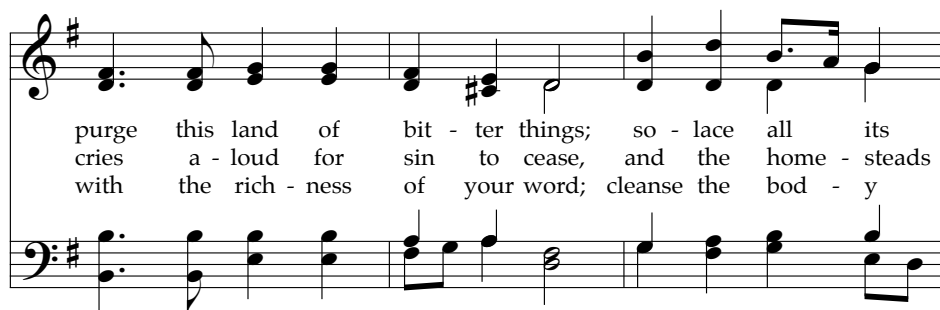
342 Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor



1 Judge E - ter - nal, throned in splen - dor, Lord of lords and
2 Still the wea - ry folk are pin - ing for the hour that
3 Crown, O God, your own en - deav - or; cleave our dark - ness



King of kings, with your liv - ing fire of judg - ment
brings re - lease, and the cit - y's crowd - ed clang - or
with your sword; feed the faith - less and the hun - gry



purge this land of bit - ter things; so - lace all its
cries a - loud for sin to cease, and the home - steads
with the rich - ness of your word; cleanse the bod - y



wide do - min - ion with the heal - ing of your wings.
and the wood - lands plead in si - lence for their peace.
of this na - tion through the glo - ry of the Lord.

More than a century after it was written, this plea for national purification has lost none of its power, nor has the need for social justice grown less acute. It is set to a traditional Welsh tune named for a long-inhabited town in north Wales overlooking the River Clywd.

Call to Worship

One: Open my eyes, that I may behold the wondrous things out of your law.

All: I live as an alien in the land; do not hide your commandments from me.

One: Your decrees are my delight, they are my counselors.

All: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Song of Praise: Hymn No. 342 – *Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor*

(SEE PAGE 3)

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Lord of all creation, Father of humankind, we acknowledge and confess before you that our hearts are unworthy to receive you, for we have offended you in word and thought and deed. We have rejected your guidance and trusted in ourselves. We have broken your good law and refused your command to love. We have hidden our faces from your truth which is light and consoled ourselves in darkness. Deem us worthy to be restored to you through Christ our Lord. Save us from our sin; blot out our guilt; and remold us into a new creation devoted to your will and worthy of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A brief period of silence is reserved for personal confession.

Assurance of Pardon



THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer For Illumination

The Word Read: *Psalm 86*

Caroline Cochrane

"Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.

Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.

In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl.

Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Word Read: *Revelation 2:12-17*

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword: “I know where you are living, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you are holding fast to my name, and you did not deny your faith in me even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan lives. But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the people of Israel, so that they would eat food sacrificed to idols and practice fornication. So you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent then. If not, I will come to you soon and make war against them with the sword of my mouth. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed: *What Christ Expects of His Church:*

The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia

4. *The Letter to Pergamum: Truth*

Danny Massie

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Song of Response: Hymn No. 340 – *This Is My Song*

FINLANDIA

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king - doms:
a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions:

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

**In life and 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,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Amen.**

– from A Brief Statement of Faith

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: *Presbyterian Guitar*

John Hartford

Rejoice! Ensemble

Charge and Benediction

Danny Massie

Song of Sending: Hymn No. 700 – *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

(SEE PAGE 10)

** Let us rise in body or spirit*

Today's Worship Leaders

Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor | Danny Massie, Interim Pastor

Nate Sell, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident

Lisa Witherspoon, Associate Director of Children's Ministry | Caroline Cochrane, Lay Reader

James Keith, Associate Director of Music Ministry for Rejoice! | the Rejoice! Ensemble

Music reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net A-707283.

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)

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
 work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)
 (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.



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.

OUR ANNUAL SUMMER CAMPAIGN FOR HUNGER MINISTRIES begins today. Especially this year, our Hot Dish & Hope take-out dinners, canned food collection on Wednesdays, and Giving Back Garden are more important than ever! Please make a gift to support these ministries. Keep an eye out for special messages from our volunteers, partners, and guests.

IN MEMORIAM

John Ralph Lore
June 30, 2020