

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 19, 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

Grant unto us, O God, the fullness of your promises.
Where we have been weak, grant us your strength;
where we have been confused, grant us your guidance;
where we have been distraught, grant us your comfort;
where we have been dead, grant us your life.
Apart from you, O Lord, we are nothing,
In and with you we can do all things. Amen.

THE VISION OF GOD

VOLUNTARY: Adagio from Sonata no. 3..... Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Neil Dunnivant

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct;
All: for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
One: If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile.

CALL TO WORSHIP continues, over

All: You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited
from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold,
One: but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without
defect or blemish.
All: He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was
revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.
One: Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the
dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.
– from 1 Peter 1:14-21

HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 309 – Come, Great God of All the Ages.....ABBOT'S LEIGH

1 Come, great God of all the a - ges; make your earth - ly
2 Come, Christ Je - sus, flesh and spir-it, sure foun - da - tion,
3 Come, great Spir - it, in and with us, tune our ears to
4 Come, O come, in cel - e - bra-tion, house - hold of the

mis - sion known; speak through ev - ery deed and per - son;
cor - ner - stone; help us form the church e - ter - nal;
hear your call; through the mov - ing of your pres - ence,
one true God; in com - mit - ment and re - joic - ing

let your way and will be shown. Guide the church to true com -
may your vi - sion be our own. Send a mes - sage to each
let re - deem - ing love re - call min - is - try in ded - i -
let us go where Christ has trod; as we act in faith and

mit-ment; give di - rec - tion now, we ask; fit us for the
 fol - lower; lead all peo - ple to your way; urge us to strong
 ca - tion, love em - bod - ied in our deeds; chal - lenge us to
 rev - erence, let us, Lord, the fu - ture see; place us in the

work of build - ing; ded - i - cate us to the task.
 faith and ac - tion as we build the church to - day.
 do your bid - ding, see your pur - pose, fill all needs.
 church tri - um - phant, now and for e - ter - ni - ty.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our Father in heaven, we thank you
 that you have led us into the light.
 We thank you for sending the Savior to call us from death to life.
 We confess that we were dead in sin before we heard his call,
 but when we heard him, like Lazarus, we arose.
 But, O God, the grave clothes bind us still.
 Old habits that we cannot throw off,
 Old customs that are so much a part of our lives
 that we are helpless to live the new life that Christ calls us to live.
 Give us strength, O God, to break the bonds;
 give us courage to live a new life in you;
 give us faith to believe that with your help we cannot fail.
 All this we ask in the name of the Savior
 who has taught us to come to you. 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: Psalm 62

Reader: Caroline Cochrane

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

How long will you assail a person, will you batter your victim, all of you, as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence. They take pleasure in falsehood; they bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O God. For you repay to all according to their work. .

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE..... Kevin Murray

ANTHEM: The Secret of Christ.....Richard Shephard (b. 1949)

Chancel Choir Ensemble

For a long time I have held my peace, but now will I speak.
I will lead the blind in a way they know not,
in paths that they have not known I will guide them.
I will turn their darkness into light, and I will not forsake them.

– based on Isaiah 42: 14-16

And he showed me a pure river of the water of life, as clear as crystal,
proceeding out of the throne of God; and on either side of the river was
there a tree of life, and the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations.

– based on Revelation 22:1-3

Help us, Lord, to persevere in prayer
with minds awake and thankful hearts,
that we may share the secret of Christ
with those we meet on our earthly pilgrimage ,
following in the steps of Jesus,
our master and our Friend. Amen.

– The Pilgrim Prayer (based on Colossians 4:2-4)

SECOND SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:1-6

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works; you have a name of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. Yet you have still a few persons in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: What Christ Expects of His Church

The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia

6. The Letter to Sardis: Spiritual Vitality Danny Massie

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 286 – Breath on Me, Breath of God.....TRENTHAM

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Alexandra Mauney

The church has its ongoing story with God.
The church's story with God did not end
with the latest events recorded in the Scripture.
Across the centuries the company of believers
has continued its pilgrimage with the Lord of history.
It is a record of faith and faithlessness, glory, and shame.
The church has been persecuted by hostile societies,
but it has also known times of privilege and power
when it has joined forces with dominant cultures.
It has sought holiness
through separation from society,
as well as through involvement in the world's affairs.
It has experienced life-giving reformations.
It has known missionary expansion throughout the world,
but also periods of dwindling resources and influence.

It has divided into rival orders, sects, and denominations,
but it has also labored for cooperation and union.
We confess we are heirs of this whole story.
We are charged to remember our past,
to be warned and encouraged by it,
but not to live it again.
Now is the time of our testing
as God's story with the church moves forward through us.
We are called to live now as God's servants
in the service of people everywhere. Amen.
– from A Declaration 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: He Lifts Me Tim and Mollie O'Brien
Rejoice! Ensemble

When I'm feelin' down and blue,
Lord help me call out to you.
Life's load is hard to abide
I'm glad I've got you by my side.

[Chorus]:
The Lord, he lifts me with his strong arms, Oh yes he does.
The Lord, he lifts me with his strong arms, Oh yes he does.

Depair and grief can cloud my view,
Help me see the signs of you.
Light the way through life's dark time,
Help me heal this heart of mine. [Chorus]

All my friends have turned away
Bringing darkness to the day.
You're the light within my eyes
I'm glad I've got you by my side.

How to live day by day
Help me Lord, show me the way.
In your house I long to reside,
I'm glad I've got you by my side. [Chorus]

CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONDanny Massie

CLOSING HYMN: No. 697 – Take My Life(SEE NEXT PAGE)

VOLUNTARY: Praeludium in DDietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
John Alexander, organ



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor
Danny Massie, Interim Pastor
Alexandra Mauney, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident
Kevin Murray, Director of Youth Ministry
John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist
Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir
Chancel Choir Ensemble
the Rejoice! Ensemble

"Come, Great God of All the Ages" Text: Mary Jackson Cathey; Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor.

"Breath on Me, Breath of God" Text: Edwin Hatch; Music: Robert Jackson.

"Take My Life" Text: Francis Ridley Havergal; Music: H. A. César Malan.

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Take My Life

697



1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as



cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.
ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

This hymn of consecration radiates from the repeated word "take," resulting in a remarkably full survey of a person's attributes and possessions and giving weight to the "all" at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.



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 a library 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.*)

JOIN THE 30-DAY JOURNEY to learn about issues of power, privilege, and systemic racism. Coordinated by the Race Equity Task Force. Start at fpcgreensboro.org/30dayjourney. **START HERE.**

OUR ANNUAL SUMMER CAMPAIGN FOR HUNGER MINISTRIES continues. 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.

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* who demonstrate a need. Info and application: contact Maggie Turner at 336.478.4724.

IN MEMORIAM

Darthea “Darlene” C. Young
July 10, 2020