



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
September 20, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

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.

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

THE VISION OF GOD

Gathering Music: *Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome*

David Huntsinger

**Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place
Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place
Omnipotent Father of mercy and grace
Thou art welcome in this place**

**Lord in Thy presence there's healing divine
No other power can save Lord but Thine
Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place
Thou art welcome in this place**

**Fill all the hungry and empty within
Restore us oh Father revive us again
Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place
Thou art welcome in this place**

Call to Worship

Leader: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.

People: Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

Leader: By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God,

People: so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Leader: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,

All: and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

Song of Praise: Hymn No. 837 – *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

SHOWALTER

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing,
 Lean-ing on Je-sus,

lean - ing,
lean-ing on Je - sus, safe and se-cure from all a - larms; lean - ing on

ing, lean - ing,
Je - sus, lean-ing on Je - sus, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up women and men to live and die in faith. We confess that we are often indifferent to your will and your way. You call us to proclaim your name, yet we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You invite us to live faithfully, but we are hesitant and afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us the courage to follow in your way, that joined with others who have served you with faith, hope and love, we may inherit the kingdom you have promised in Jesus Christ. Amen.

A brief period of silence is reserved for personal confession.

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.**

THE WORD OF GOD

The Word Read: *Hebrews 11:8-16*

Lisa Allen

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Time for Children

Lisa Witherspoon



The Word Read: *Genesis 15:1-21*

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; but I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed: *Believing in or Believing God*

Danny Massie

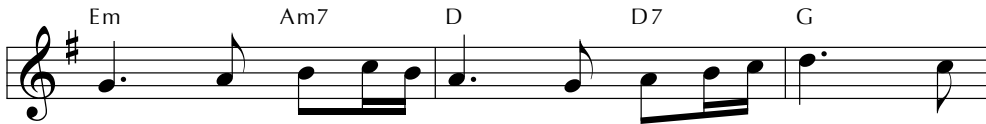
RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Song of Response: Hymn No. 847 – *Our Hope, Our Life*

O WALY WALY



1 Our hope, our life are in the Lord, the God we
2 Some flaunt their gold; some trust its power, but what they
3 Though wealth or learn - ing may be ours, or fame that
4 Be - yond this age of shame and sham we glimpse a



hon - or and con - fess. Why crave re - nown or
cher - ish will de - cay; and still the ran - som
spreads through - out the land, the shack - les of mor -
bet - ter des - ti - ny: the Lord will lift us



op - u - lence? They fade, those things we now pos - sess.
for a soul re - mains a price too great to pay.
tal - i - ty pre - vent so much that we have planned.
free from death to dwell in praise e - ter - nal - ly.

Affirmation of Faith

Alexandra Mauney

**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.*

Rejoice! Ensemble

When I cannot close my eyes,
And the night goes on,
Troubles taunt on every side,
And my doubt is strong,
Shelter me, shelter me.
Let the thought of your compassion
Be my strength.
Prince of Peace, shelter me
From the tempest of my unbelief.
Mighty God who calmed the sea,
Come and shelter me.

Do your promises still stand?
Does your mercy cease?
By the power of your hand,
Grant me my release.

Charge and Benediction

Danny Massie

Song of Sending: *Benediction*

Matt Redman

**May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord smile on you,
Shine His light upon you.
May the Lord lift you,
Turn His face towards you,
Give you His peace give you His peace.**

**Blessed we came to this place today
And blessed now we will go
In the name of the Father the Spirit and the Son.**

**May the Lord bless us and keep us.
May the Lord smile on us,
Shine His light upon us.
May the Lord lift us,
Turn His face towards us,
Give us His peace give us His peace.**

Today's Worship Leaders

Neil Dunnavant, Executive Pastor

Danny Massie, Interim Pastor

Alexandra Mauney, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident

Lisa Witherspoon, Associate Director of Children's Ministry

Lisa Allen, Lay Reader

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

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

DRIVE-IN CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY

Please plan to attend a drive-in congregational meeting today, September 20, at 5 pm in the parking lot at Westminster Presbyterian Church. The purpose is to amend our bylaws to allow congregational meetings by Zoom or other virtual methods. We anticipate several congregational meetings in the near future involving various issues.

The meeting should last only 15 minutes, and you can stay in your car to vote. *We need at least 300 members to have a quorum.* Westminster Presbyterian is located at 3906 W Friendly Ave. The parking lot is behind the church.

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)

Please consider the following in suggesting your nominee(s):

- **Elders are chosen by the people:** Together with the ministers of the Word and Sacrament, they exercise leadership, government, and discipline, and have responsibilities for the life of a particular church, as well as the Church at large, including Ecumenical relationships. (*Book of Order*)
- **Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment:** Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel both with the Church and in the world. (*Book of Order*)
- **Church involvement:** Persons who have invested themselves actively in the life and ministry of our church through worship, stewardship, service, teaching, caregiving, outreach and missions, work with children and youth, music ministry and or/committee and administrative work. Persons who are committed to Presbyterian forms of governance.
- **Personal characteristics and skills:** Persons who are cooperative, willing to learn, open to new ideas, dependable, and motivated.
- **Trustees for the Richardson Trust:** Current responsibility is the investment and disbursement of the L. Richardson Trust.

2020-2021 Nominating Committee:

Parrish Peddrick, *chair*; Beau McIntosh, *vice chair*; Ginger Booker, Ty Buckner, Lisa Cook, Ed Galloway, Jean Goodman, Teri Hammer, Jim Hoeger, Lorie Jones, Carole Lesley, Emily Scott, Sam Simpson, John Vanderwerff

Nominations for Church Officers

Members of FPC influence the direction of our church through nominating and electing our leaders. As the Nominating Committee prepares a slate of elders and a trustee for next spring's election, we ask you to suggest members whose leadership will strengthen the church and its mission for Jesus Christ.

Please see more information to the left.

The deadline for nominations is September 27.

There are three ways to submit nominations:

- **MAIL** this form to First Presbyterian Church, 617 North Elm Street, Greensboro, NC 27401, in an envelope marked "Confidential: Nominating Committee."
- OR**
- **EMAIL** Debby Foster at dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org or Parrish Peddrick at parrish.lentz@gmail.com. with the subject line "Confidential: Nominating Committee." Please include the name of the person you are recommending and why you think they would be a good leader; and also note E for Elder, YE for Youth Elder, or T for Richardson Trust Trustee.
- OR**
- **SUBMIT A FORM ONLINE**, found under the "Session" heading at fpcgreensboro.org/member-resources

I recommend:

(Why do you think they would be a good leader?)

Please note **E** for Elder, **YE** for Youth Elder, and **T** for Richardson Trust Trustee



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: Our church campus will remain closed until early October. Our Sunday Livestream service will be available on our home page, fpcgreensboro.org, and also on our live streaming page, fpcgreensboro.org/streaming-live.

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

- ▷ On our [home page](#), messages on our North Elm Notes blog from pastors and staff.
- ▷ On our [DIGITAL FORMATION](#) page, you will find the latest online ministry for all ages.
- ▷ Our [DIGITAL FORMATION LIBRARY](#) offers videos, special studies, children's programs, and more 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 here.](#)

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. 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 OUR MEMBER RESOURCES PAGE** for our online directory, staff list, and other information.
- **SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY E-NEWS AND OUR THURSDAY MORNING SUNDAY PREVIEW** on our [Connect](#) page.
- **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.*)

NEXT SUNDAY: Rejoice! livestream worship, with Rev. Dolly Jacobs preaching. Music from the Rejoice! Ensemble.

- Two video studies continue in adult church school – in [YMBC](#), Charles Howell leads "I am being crucified with Christ," based on Galatians 2:20; and in Agape, Sandie Gravett leads [a study of the prophet Ezekiel](#) with "Bringing Dead Bones to Life" (Chapter 37).
- Commitment, meeting via Zoom. The Fruit of the Spirit, through November 22. Contact [Mary Eagle](#) for link.
- Seekers, socially distanced. Continuing study of the Book of Romans. Contact [Gerard Davidson](#).
- Two video series continue in children's church school. [Godly Play](#) features Stories from the Old Testament, for pre-K through second grade. [An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation](#), for grades 3-5, is available on the Older Elementary Playlist.

PRAYERS FOR PARENTS: Today, we pray for parents who are drowning under their to-do lists. Sunday evenings, we offer a simple prayer with a Bible verse on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). This week we pray for parents who are facing a parenting challenge. Parents can also find support in our [new Facebook group](#), First Pres Parents. [More info here.](#)

IN MEMORIAM

Darthea "Darlene" Crenshaw Young

"Bright, witty, gracious, loving, generous and fierce." This is the way her son Peter characterized his mother, Darthea (Darlene) Crenshaw Young, on the occasion of her memorial service, August 1, 2020, a day which also marked husband Peter's and her sixty-first wedding anniversary. She died after a brief illness July 10, 2020.

Darlene was certainly a personification of C.F. Alexander's "All things bright and beautiful...wise and wonderful..." with all credit going to the creator: "How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well." She was born a child of Atlanta, Georgia, February 23, 1937. She effortlessly fulfilled the expectations of a woman brought up in a gracious, southern community. She graduated from Emory University with a degree in biology. Greensboro became her home fifty-two years ago, in 1968, when husband Peter came here to practice surgery. She and Peter embraced their new community and served it well, making many friends, developing a variety of interests, and adding two children to the family in the early '60s—Whitney and Peter.

Family was paramount. Darlene officiated at daughter Whitney's swim meets and supported son Peter's Boy Scout troops. PTA organizations could always count on participation from Darlene. She was a cherished partner in marriage to husband Peter. But though family was perhaps the first, it was not her exclusive focus. Beyond family, First Presbyterian Church enjoyed her exacting mind and strong leadership: She was a loyal choir member, a tirelessly contributing elder, a chair of various session committees, president of Presbyterian Women and trustee of the church. Further, it cannot go unsaid that she was an enthusiastic—a very enthusiastic—fan of the North Carolina Tarheels!

Wherever Darlene's interests lay, there she generously gave her talent, energy, and leadership. The arts, music, science, and reading led her to become president of the Greensboro Symphony Guild, Weatherspoon Art Gallery Guild, Civic Ballet Guild and very recently, the North Carolina Historical Book Society.

She served as president of the Greater Greensboro Society of Medicine Alliance 1977-78, president of the NC Medical Society Alliance 1985-86, and secretary and member of the Board of the American Medical Association Alliance. Darlene served on the board of the North Carolina Aquarium Society in Pine Knoll Shores, from 1990 to 2018, and continued as an emeritus member until her death.

Darthea Crenshaw Young was a light of Christ in the world and will be missed by all who knew her—her capabilities, her energy, her kindness and her humor.

The session of First Presbyterian Church sadly acknowledges the loss of this precious member of its community and offers its condolences to husband, Dr. Peter Young; daughter, Whitney Baird and husband Andrew of Chevy Chase, MD; son, Dr. Peter Young, Jr. and wife Shirley of Yakima, WA; grandchildren, Elizabeth, Patrick, Susannah and Graham, and to all who knew and loved Darlene.