



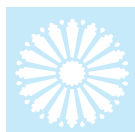
First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro  
September 27, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

### **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

God of changed minds, God of changed hearts: sometimes a good argument can affect our thinking, and in turn affect our behaviour. But more often, it's a better relationship that with someone we thought we'd figure out that reveals what our minds had missed, exposing the flaw in our certainty. No matter how we come to know that your truth is different to what we imagined, may this revelation lead to a gentle revolution, and may our turning around bring us closer to you. Amen.

*– by Llanasa & Ffynnongroyw CIW, Bryn a Môr MA; 2020*

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



## THE VISION OF GOD

Gathering Music: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

**Great is Thy faithfulness  
O God my Father,  
There is no shadow  
Of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not,  
Thy compassions they fail not.  
As Thou hast been,  
Thou forever wilt be.**

*[Chorus]:*

**Great is Thy faithfulness.  
Great is Thy faithfulness.  
Morning by morning  
New mercies I see.  
All I have needed  
Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Lord unto me.**

**Summer and winter  
And springtime and harvest,  
Sun moon and stars  
In their courses above  
Join with all nature  
In manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness,  
Mercy and love.**

*[Chorus]*

**Pardon for sin  
And a peace that endureth.  
Thy own dear presence  
To cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today  
And bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine  
With ten thousand beside.**

*[Chorus]*

Welcome, Invitation and Congregational Life

Dolly Jacobs

Call to Worship

Newton Cowan

One: My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

**All: I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things,  
things from of old—**

One: things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.

**All: We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next  
generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the  
wonders he has done.**

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

**God of the spaces between us, God of the fractures within us: in the gap between what is and what should be there is room for empathy and learning. There are truths that we don't yet see, but could come to understand if we care enough to ask, if we imagine the reality of others, if we have the courage to change. May we enter that space knowing well you are there, waiting for us to join you in a recreation of what was empty into a garden full of life.**

**God of form and frame, God of tension and resistance: to grow we need something to push against. We need conflict to reveal what we think, how we feel, and for whom we're willing to fight.**

**We need conflict to train us how to be kind when we really don't want to; how to make room for others because we simply have to, and because it makes a better space for us all. As we struggle and strain, may we hold our own but always in connection with others. 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

Prayer for Illumination

The Word Read: *Philippians 2:1-13*

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better

The Word Read *continues, over*

than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

A Time for Children

Donna Chase

The Word Read: *Exodus 17:1-7*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Word Proclaimed: *I Need a Sign*

Dolly Jacobs

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Song of Response: *Calling All Angels*

Pat Monahan

*Rejoice! Ensemble*

I need a sign to let me know you're here  
All of these lines are being crossed over the atmosphere  
I need to know that things are gonna look up  
'Cause I feel us drowning in a sea spilled from a cup

When there is no place safe and no safe place to put my head  
When you feel the world shake from the words that are said

And I'm calling all angels  
And I'm calling all you angels

And I won't give up if you don't give up  
I won't give up if you don't give up  
I won't give up if you don't give up  
I won't give up if you don't give up

I need a sign to let me know you're here  
'Cause my TV set just keeps it all from being clear  
I want a reason for the way things have to be  
I need a hand to help build up some kind of hope inside of me

And I'm calling all angels  
And I'm calling all you angels

When children have to play inside so they don't disappear  
While private eyes solve marriage lies 'cause we don't talk for years  
And football teams are kissing Queens and losing sight of having dreams  
In a world that what we want is only what we want until it's ours

And I'm calling all angels  
And I'm calling all you angels

And I'm (I won't give up if you don't give up)  
Calling all angels (I won't give up if you don't give up)  
And I'm (I won't give up if you don't give up)  
Calling all you angels (I won't give up if you don't give up)  
Calling all you angels (I won't give up if you don't give up)

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

Affirmation of Faith

**In life and in 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.  
In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,**

**to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

Charge and Benediction

Dolly Jacobs

Song of Sending: *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

**What a fellowship what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.  
What a blessedness what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

*[Chorus]:*

**Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms.  
Leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

*[Chorus]*

**What have I to dread what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

*[Chorus]*



## Today's Worship Leaders

Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care | Newton Cowan, Pastoral Care  
Maria Hanlin, Pastoral Care | Donna Chase, Director of Christian Formation  
James Keith, Associate Director of Music Ministry for Rejoice! | the Rejoice! Ensemble

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### WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGES OCTOBER 18

The Session has approved a return to in-person worship with modifications. NC's trends are steady, Guilford County's hospitalizations are down, and doctors know much more about treatment.

This has been a trying and often lonely time, and we are excited at the thought of being together again in the Sanctuary!

The Livestream service will move to 9 am. You can watch the recording at any time afterward. An in-person service with up to 100 worshippers will begin at 11 am. Look for more information in your mailbox and [on this page](#).

Many staff and members have been planning to make worship together safe and meaningful. You are the most important piece of this: If you are in a high-risk category, or have symptoms, or have been exposed to someone with the virus, please keep yourself and others safe by staying home and worshipping via the Livestream. Remember the believers in Acts, who "spent much time together in the temple" and "broke bread at home ... with glad and generous hearts."

We will try this schedule until mid-December, calling on our Spirit-fruit of patience as we learn and make changes.

**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](mailto:dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org) or Parrish Peddrick at [parrish.lentz@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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 remains closed; however limited-seating worship will begin Sunday, October 18. *See page 8 for more info.* 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).

### 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.

**COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY** – During next Sunday's livestream worship service, we will celebrate communion. The Sacraments Team invites you to pick up a home communion kit in advance. Kits will be handed out at the semi-circle drive on Elm Street:

- *Wednesday, September 30, 14-6 pm;* and
- *Saturday, October 3, 9-11 am.*

**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 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:** Livestream worship, with Rev. Danny Massie preaching for World Communion Sunday. Music from the Chancel Choir Ensemble.

- Sandie Gravett leads a new combined video class in Agape and YMBC, [Paul's Letter to the Romans](#).
- 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 whose faith is wavering. Sunday evenings, we offer a simple prayer with a Bible verse on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Parents can also find support in our [new Facebook group](#), First Pres Parents. [More info here.](#)

### IN MEMORIAM

Maurice N. Jennings Sr.  
September 19, 2020