

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 13, 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.*

FOR REFLECTION

*The following are words of admonition to be considered by
faithful Jews before the beginning of their high holy days:*

Sleepers, arise from your slumber, and those who are dozing,
awake from your lethargy. Review your actions, repent from
your sins, and remember your Creator!

– from Hilchot Teshuvah 3

THE VISION OF GOD

VOLUNTARY: Prelude on St. Denio Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Dolly Jacobs

SOUNDING OF THE SHOFAR..... Danny Massie

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it

People: **for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.**

Leader: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?

People: **Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.**

Leader: They will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.

All: **Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

- Psalm 24

HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 12 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ST. DENIO

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

With trembling I begin my plea, rising to entreat the awesome exalted One. Deficient in good deeds, I stand in fear; limited in wisdom, how dare I hope? My Creator, teach me to transmit our heritage; strengthen and support me, lest I falter in fear. Let my whispered prayer be like incense rare, and my spoken plea, like sweetest honey. Accept my prayer, reject it not. My heart trembles, for You know its secrets; my soul is in dread at the thought of judgement. If sin were fully punished, who could survive? Therefore I weep and cry for your mercy. I plead and pray for a charitable decree. What can we say to You, exalted God? What can we tell you, Lord of the universe? For you know everything, the hidden and the open. You know the mysteries of the universe as well as the secrets of every mortal. You search the deepest recesses of the human soul, and probe all our thoughts and motives. Nothing escapes You, nothing is concealed from You. Therefore, may it be Your will, Lord our God and God of our ancestors, to forgive all our sins, to pardon all our iniquities, and to grant us atonement for all our transgressions...

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.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WORD READ: *Isaiah 58:1-12*

Reader: Erwin Fuller

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient

ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Kevin Murray

ANTHEM: Psalm 23 Heinrich Schalit (1886-1973)

Chancel Choir Ensemble

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters; he restoreth my soul.
He guideth me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.
Yea though I walk through the valley of death I fear no evil;
for Thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.
Thou hast anointed my head with oil, my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

THE WORD READ: *Hebrews 10:11-25*

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER BEFORE THE MEDITATION

O Lord, standing before Your Word at the beginning of the new year, we renew the ancient covenant, speaking again the words of our ancestors: "All that the Lord has spoken we will do."

Our God and God of our ancestors, we thank You for Your Torah, our priceless heritage. May the portion we have read today inspire us to do Your will and to seek further knowledge of You word. Thus our minds will be enriched and our lives endowed with purpose. May we take to heart Your laws by which we can truly live. Happy are those who love You and delight in fulfilling Your commandments. Amen.

SERMON: "The Days of Awe".....Danny Massie

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 686 – God of Our Life.....SANDON

1 God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, we trust in thee.
2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us a - bidē.
3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un-known we fol-low thee.

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land. Be thou our guide.
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone. Our ref-uge be.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
 With thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
 Be thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,

we own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
 and faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.
 our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

COMMISSIONING OF TEACHERS AND LEADERS Kevin Murray

Leader: From generation to generation God's powerful story of transformative love is told and retold. We believe that by grace this story changes our lives and therefore we want to share it. Today we commission those in the ministry of Christian formation who share God's story of love and grace with all ages. We believe that these leaders have been called by God and this congregation to use the gifts that God has given them in service to others.

People: **As members of First Presbyterian we seek to support these leaders through our prayers and faithful participation in the ministries of Christian formation. We believe these ministries have the power to shape us into faithful disciples who seek to know, love, and serve Christ and our neighbor. We believe these ministries are not confined to a church building but are guided by the Holy Spirit and therefore know no bounds.**

All: **Relying on God's Grace, we seek to learn from the past and start anew with energy, imagination, courage, and love. We do this with the eternal hope of living out the reconciling message of God's transformative love for all people.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE..... Keith Dove

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: L'dor Vador..... Meir Finkelstein (b. 1951)

Chancel Choir Ensemble

*L'dor vador nagid godlecha.
Ul'neitsach netsachim
K'dushatcha nakdish
V'shivchacha eloheinu
Mipinu lo yamush l'olam vaed
Ki eil melech gadol
Vekadosh atah.
Baruch atah adonai
Baruch hu uvaruch sh'mo
Ha'eil hakadosh.*

To all generations
we will make known Your greatness.
And to all eternity
Proclaim Your holiness.
Your praise, O God,
Shall never depart from our lips.
You are the Sovereign; almighty and holy.
Blessed is God, the holy One.

CHARGE AND BLESSING Danny Massie

CLOSING HYMN: No. 49 – The God of Abraham Praise LEONI

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a-bove,
 2 Your spir-it still flows free, high surg-ing where it will.
 3 Your good-ly land we seek, with peace and plen-ty blest,
 4 You have e-ter-nal life im-plant-ed in the soul;

the An-cient of E-ter-nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa-cred lib-er-ty and Sab-bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a-ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es-tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon-ey flow, and oil and wine a-bound,
 We praise you, liv-ing God! We praise your ho-ly name:

we bow be-fore your ho-ly name, for-ev-er blest.
 deep writ up-on the hu-man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for-ev-er grow with mer-cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be-yond all thought, and still the same!

VOLUNTARY: The God of Abraham Praise arr. Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)
John Alexander, organ



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Danny Massie, Interim Pastor
Keith Dove, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident
Kevin Murray, Director of Youth Ministry
Erwin Fuller, Lay Reader
John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist
Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir
Chancel Choir Ensemble

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” Text: Walter Chalmers Smith; Music: Welsh folk melody.
“God of Our Life” Text: Hugh Thompson Kerr; Music: Charles Henry Purday.
“The God of Abraham Praise” Text: Daniel ben Judah Dayan; Music: Jewish melody.

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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)*

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! service, with Rev. Danny Massie preaching. Music from the Rejoice! Ensemble.

- Two new 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 "How to Recognize Bad vs Good Shepherds" (Chapter 34).
- Two new 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 KDC Playlist.

PRAYERS FOR PARENTS: 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.](#)