



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
October 11, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

From the restless movement and quickened pace
Of our everyday lives
We draw aside to catch the rhythms of Thy peace.

As the still small sounds of worship
Fill the high rooms of our souls
Breaking gradually into rainbow-colored
Choruses of praise,
Shape and mold us into godly men and women
Through Thy revelation in Christ Jesus. Amen.

–E. Lee Phillips

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

THE VISION OF GOD

Gathering Music: *Step by Step*

**O God You are my God,
And I will ever praise You.
O God You are my God,
And I will ever praise You.
I will seek You in the morning,
And I will learn to walk in Your ways,
And step by step You'll lead me,
And I will follow You all of my days.**

Call to Worship

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
All: and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Leader: Day to day pours forth speech,
All: and night to night declares knowledge.

Leader: There is no speech, nor are there words;
All: their voice is not heard;

Leader: yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
All: and their words to the end of the world.

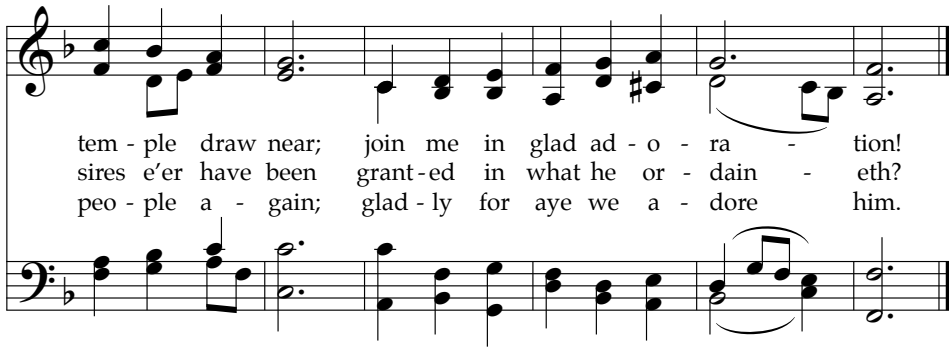
Song of Praise: Hymn No. 35 – *Praise Ye the Lord, The Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant-ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on us and hear our prayer, O God. We have failed to live in the light of your covenant. You set your rainbows above us, yet clouds of unbelief darken our days. Distrust wells within us; fear, not hope is our watchword. Beloved bids us follow, but we are slow to obey. Without your grace, we are fruitless and inert. In mercy renew us and bring us to life, through 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

Prayer for Illumination

The Word Read: *Philippians 4:4-9*

Mady Ballenger

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Time for Children

Kevin Murray

The Word Read: *Genesis 9:8-17*

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Song of Response: *God Be the Love*

Rejoice! Ensemble

God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the name of Holy,
great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Affirmation of Faith

Kevin Murray

Hope in God gives us courage for the struggle.

**The people of God have often misused God's promises
as excuses for doing nothing about present evils.**

**But in Christ the new world has already broken in
and the old can no longer be tolerated.**

We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.

**But hope plunges us into the struggle
for victories over evil that are possible now
in the world, the church, and our individual lives.**

Hope gives us courage and energy

**to contend against all opposition,
however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity
that are surely coming.**

Jesus is Lord!

He has been Lord from the beginning.

He will be Lord at the end.

Even now he is Lord. Amen.

– from A Declaration of Faith

Prayers of the People

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: *Death Be Not Proud*

Audrey Assad

Rejoice! Ensemble

Death, be not proud, though the whole world fear you:
Mighty and dreadful you may seem,
But death, be not proud, for your pride has failed you
You will not kill me.
Though you may dwell in plague and poison,
You're a slave to fate and desperate men,
So death, if your sleep be the gates to Heaven,
Why your confidence?
When you will be no more,
You will be no more,
When you will be no more.
Even death will die.
Even death will die.

Death, be not proud.
Death, be not proud.
Death, be not proud,
Cause even death will die.

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

Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Danny Massie, Interim Pastor

Kevin Murray, Director of Youth Ministry

Mady Ballenger, Lay Reader

James Keith, Associate Director of Music Ministry for Rejoice!

Rejoice! Ensemble

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGES NEXT SUNDAY

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 worshipers 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.

LIVESTREAM SERVICE

- **Watch live at 9 am**
Click on player screen on home page, fpcgreensboro.org
- **Watch anytime afterward**
Click Replay Livestream on home page.
Click on player screen on home page, fpcgreensboro.org.
Service will show in player screen or at top of column on right, depending on how soon you choose to watch.

MODIFIED IN-PERSON SERVICE

- 11 am; same preacher & sermon as Livestream.
- Up to 100 worshipers; *reservations required.*
- No singing, communion, or bulletins.
- Pew cushions, Bibles, Welcome pads, hymnals have been removed.
- Offering baskets available at the door.
- *See next page for guidelines.*

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)*

MODIFIED IN-PERSON SERVICE: Guidelines for Participating

BECAUSE THIS IS WHO WE ARE: We care about the safety and well-being of our community. Please respect these guidelines from our Covid-19 Task Force and worship leaders. Let's hold each other accountable – if you see someone not abiding by guidelines, speak to them out of love and concern.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: May be made online 9 am Tuesdays - midnight Saturdays while spaces available; **beginning this Tuesday**, just go to the home page (fpcgreensboro.org) and click on the Worship Reservations button. For those unable to use online system, phone option 9-11 am Tuesdays. *See below for more.*

WHEN YOU ARRIVE ON SUNDAYS

- Worshipers seated 10:30 - 10:50 am.
- Put on mask before leaving your car – cover nose and mouth, and end below chin. (No gaiters or face shields.)
- One entrance only, the Greene Street door to the Smith Building. Wait on marked spots. Use hand sanitizer provided.
- Only those on reservation list admitted. No exceptions. Please be considerate of our ushers and do not show up without a reservation.
- Ushers will seat those with reservations. Remain in seat with mask on throughout service.

AFTER SERVICE ENDS

- Ushers will release worshipers by pews.
- All exit at Sanctuary door to Greene Street. Use provided hand sanitizer as you leave.
- Remain masked until in your vehicle. If you greet other worshipers, stay 6 feet apart.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESERVATIONS

Beginning Tuesday, you can go to the home page (fpcgreensboro.org) and click on the Worship Reservations button. We are using SignUpGenius. You do not need to download software or create an account. Phone option for those without technology.

Reservations open each Tuesday at 9 am. Closes when all spaces are taken or midnight Saturday.

ONLINE

1. Go to fpcgreensboro.org. In the Sunday section, click on Worship Reservations.
2. The next page is a Self-Certify Checklist.
 - If you can answer "No" to all questions, you will be taken to the reservation page. Fill in the form and click Submit. You will receive a confirmation email.
 - If you can answer "Yes" to any questions, do not register and consult your doctor.

PHONE

Only for those unable to use online system

Between 9 and 11 am Tuesdays, call 336-478-4713 and speak with person on duty. Reservation is not made unless you speak with someone. Do not leave a message. You will be asked questions from the Self-Certify Checklist. If you can say "No" to all, the staff member will make your reservation.

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 pages 8 & 9 for more info.* 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.

OUR 12TH SENIOR PASTOR ARRIVES DECEMBER 1 – Selected from 150 candidates in a nearly two-year process, Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield will lead worship at FPC for the first time on Sunday, December 6. Please keep Jill in prayer as she prepares to join us. Read more about her at fpcgreensboro.org/pastor.

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: Children's Sabbath. 9 am livestream worship. 11am in-person worship (*up to 100 worshipers, reservations required, see page 9*). Rev. Alexandra Mauney will be preaching her last sermon as a pastoral resident at FPC. Music from the Chancel Choir Ensemble.

- Sandie Gravett leads a 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 who are struggling to connect with their children. 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.](#)