



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
October 25, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.
REFORMATION SUNDAY

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.

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

THE VISION OF GOD

Gathering Music: *Bagpipes (pre-recorded for livestream)*
Stuart Marshall, bagpipes

Welcome, Invitation and Congregational Life

Alexandra Mauney

A Minute for Stewardship

John Whisnant



Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**All: Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.**

Leader: For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

**All: In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.**

Leader: The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

**All: Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;**

Leader: for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

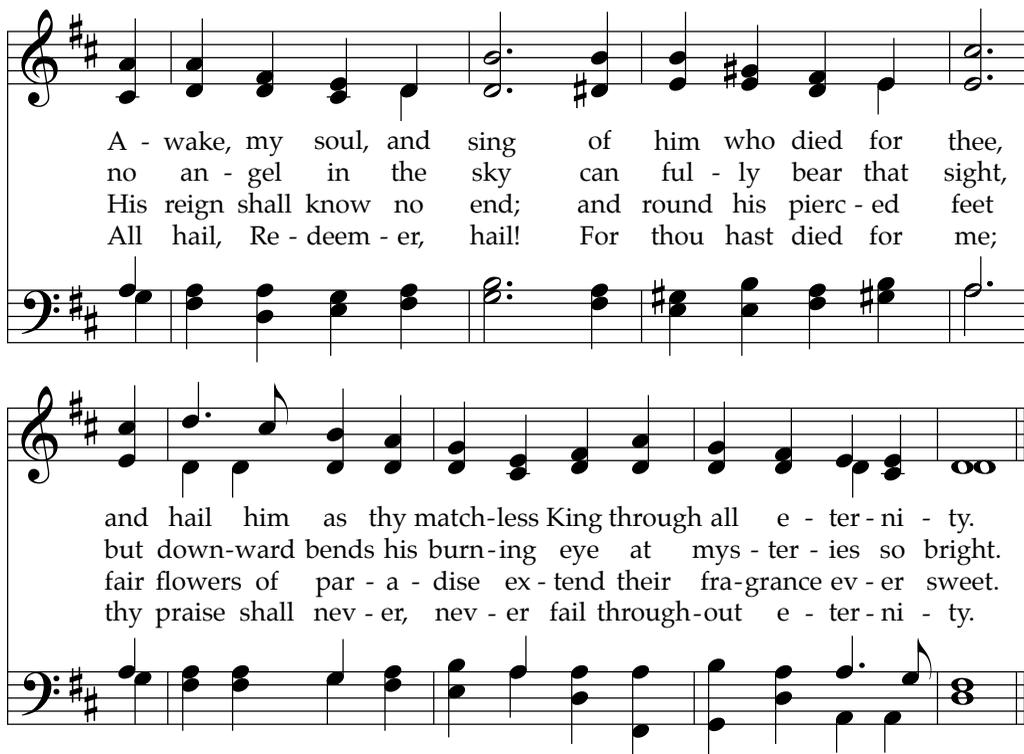
Song of Praise: Hymn No. 268 – *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DIADEMATA

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Crown Him with Many Crowns'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final four lines.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
but down-ward bends his burn-ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, merciful and everlasting God, we acknowledge and confess before your divine majesty that we are poor sinners, prone to evil and ever falling short of goodness. We have transgressed your commandments, and are worthy of your anger.

But, O Lord, we repent and are sorry from our hearts that we have so displeased you. We pray that your grace may bring help to our distress.

Be pleased, therefore, to have mercy upon us, O most gracious God and Father. Forgive us all our sins, through the holy sufferings of your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and grant us now the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Increase these in us each day, that we may repent, that sin may be destroyed in us, and that we may bring forth the fruits of righteousness and a pure life that are pleasing to you through Jesus Christ. Amen.

– adapted from the liturgy of the Reformed Church of Zurich, 1525

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: *Psalm 16 (KJV)*

Stuart Marshall

Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.

O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee;

But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.

Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.

The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.

The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.

will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.

I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Word Read: *Hebrews 12:1-2*

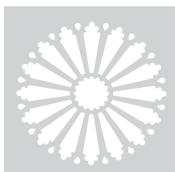
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed: *A Goodly Heritage*

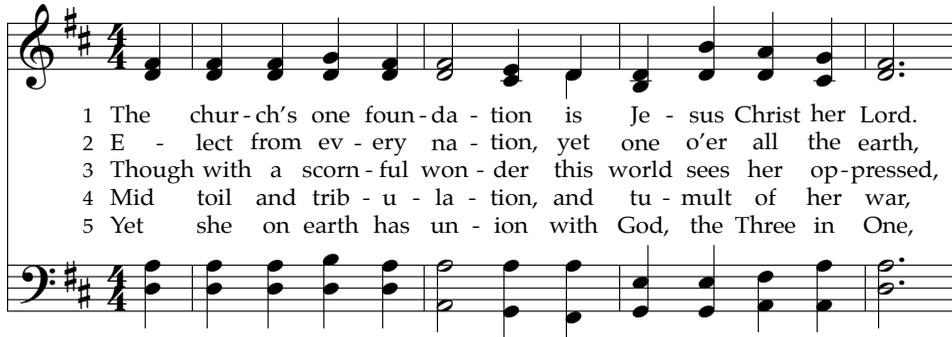
Danny Massie



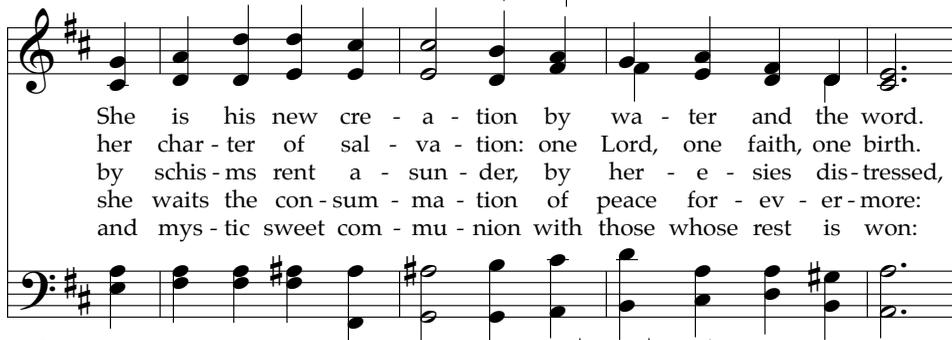
RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Song of Response: Hymn No. 321 – *The Church's One Foundation*

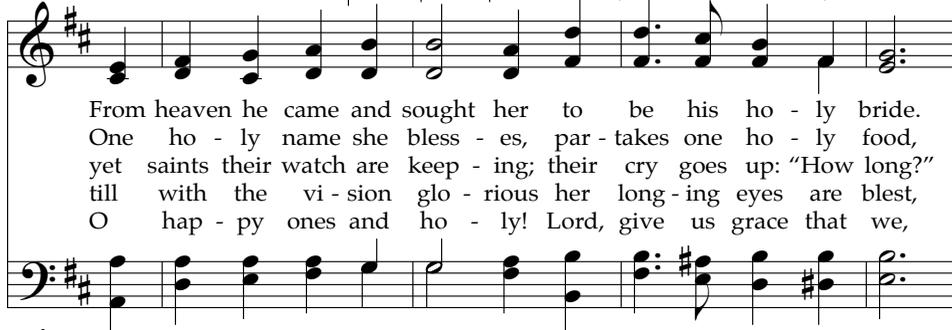
AURELIA



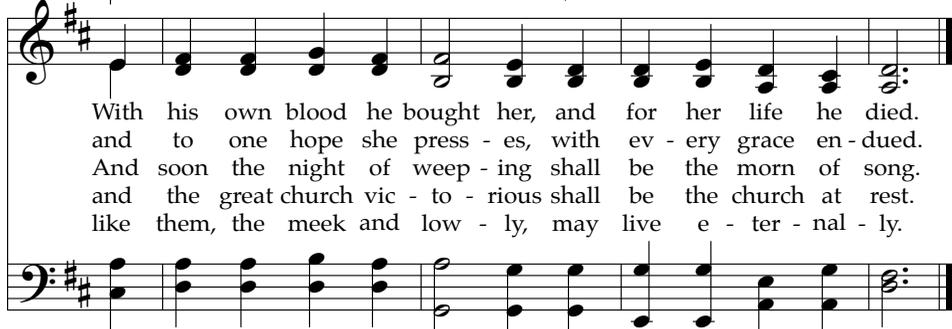
1 The chur-ch's one foun-da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op-pressed,
4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,



She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis-tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:



From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.
One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,



With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

**The church has its ongoing story with God.
The church's story with God did not end
with the latest events recorded in 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 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 that 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.**

– 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: *Don't Let Me Come Home A Stranger*
Rejoice! Ensemble

Robin & Linda Williams

As I walked out one evening
To breathe the air and sooth my mind,
I thought of friends and the home I had
And all those things I left behind oh...

A silent star shone on me.
My eyes saw the far horizon,
As if to pierce this veil of time
And escape this earthly prison.

[Chorus]:

Will there come a time when the memories fade
And pass on with the long, long years?
When the ties no longer bind,
Lord save me from this darkest fear.
Don't let me come home a stranger.
I couldn't stand to be a stranger.

In this place so far from home,
They know my name but they don't know me.
They hear my voice; they see my face,
But they can't lay no claim on me.

[Chorus]

As I walk this universe
I free my mind of time and space.
I wander through the galaxy
But never knew I'd find my place.

[Chorus]

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

Alexandra Mauney, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident
Danny Massie, Interim Pastor
Keith Dove, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident
Lisa Witherspoon, Associate Director of Children's Ministry
Stuart Marshall, Lay Reader and Bagpiper
James Keith, Associate Director of Music Ministry for Rejoice!
Rejoice! Ensemble

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY, 5:30 PM VIA ZOOM

The Well-Spring Group has made an offer to purchase the church's properties on North Greene Street, to develop housing for seniors ages 62 and older. A mailing with details was sent out, and an information meeting was held last Sunday on Zoom. Today at 5:30 pm, there will be a Congregational Meeting for a vote on the offer.

[Zoom link here](#). Passcode: 674700. Or call 646-876-9923, Meeting ID: 834 5053 0043

WITH THANKS TO OUR INTERIM PASTOR

Rev. Danny Massie will close his interim ministry with us next Sunday. He has led FPC with energy, deep faith, and steadiness, especially during the past seven months as we all had to reevaluate what "being church" really means. Because of ongoing concerns about the coronavirus, we will be unable to host our traditional reception after worship. Please share your appreciation of and love for Danny in these ways:

- *Write a note and mail it to the church.* The Transition Team will collect these and get them to Danny.
- *Email a note to thankyoudanny2020@gmail.com*
- *Greet Danny at the Food Drive-by for Urban Ministry on this Wednesday, October 28.* He will be under the tent in front of Redhead Hall from 10 am to noon.

OUR 12TH SENIOR PASTOR ARRIVES DECEMBER 1

Selected from 150 candidates, Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield will lead worship on Sunday, December 6. Please keep Jill in prayer as she prepares to join us. Read more about her at fpcgreensboro.org/pastor.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGES

The Session has approved a return to in-person worship with modifications.

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 has moved to 9 am. You can watch the recording at any time afterward. An in-person service with up to 100 worshipers begins at 11 am. Look for more information [on this page](#).

It is an ongoing process 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 worshiping 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; 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

On Tuesdays, 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.

WORSHIP AND STUDY DURING CAMPUS CLOSING: Our church campus remains closed; however limited-seating worship has begun. *See pages 10 & 11 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.

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.)*

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:



ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given by Suzanne and Bob Rhodes to the glory of God and in memory of those who have died due to COVID-19

PRAYERS FOR PARENTS: Today on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), we pray for parents who just need a break.

NEXT SUNDAY: All Saints' Sunday. 9 am livestream worship. 11 am in-person worship (*up to 100 worshipers, reservations required, see next page*). Rev. Danny Massie will be preaching for the last time as our Interim Pastor. 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.
- *All Saints' Day concert:* In lieu of an All Saints' Day concert offering in person this year we invite you to view the recorded performance of Mozart's *Requiem* by our Chancel Choir, soloists and orchestra, from November 6, 2016. John Alexander is conducting, along with soloists: Emily Ford Coates, Julie Celona-VanGorden, Shelby Thiedemann, and Anne Albert sopranos, Stephanie Foley-Davis and Nicole Wood, mezzo-sopranos, Lane Ridenhour and Derek Jackenheimer, tenors; and Ralph Davison, Austin Jeffries and Willie Mack, basses. It will be available on [our YouTube channel](#).

IN MEMORIAM

John Lafayette Irvin
October 17, 2020

John Herman Snider
October 17, 2020

Jimmy Thomas Wilcox
October 16, 2020