



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
November 8, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.
COMMITMENT SUNDAY

THE VISION OF GOD

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

Gathering Music: Hymn No. 15 – *All Creatures of Our God and King* (SEE PAGES 2 AND 3)

Welcome, Invitation and Congregational Life Dolly Jacobs

A Minute for Stewardship Victoria Alexander

Call to Worship

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

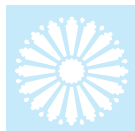
Many: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

One: Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his;

Many: We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

One: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.

**Many: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**



15 All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
2 O broth - er wind with clouds and rain, you nur - ture gifts
3 O broth - er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad -
4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain

Harmony

and with us sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
of fruit and grain. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
ows of the night. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
or sor - row grieve, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

O broth - er sun with gold - en beam, O sis - ter moon
O sis - ter wa - ter, flow - ing clear, make mu - sic for
Dear moth - er earth, who day by day un - folds such bless -
Christ bears your bur - dens and your fears; so, e - ven in

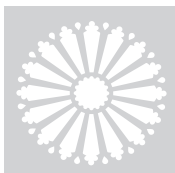
Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."

Harmony

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



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

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of the world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love 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

Prayer for Illumination

The Word Read: *Psalm 22:22-31*

Jill Hare

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation
I will praise you:

You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in
awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his
face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before
those who fear him.

The Word Read continues, over

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it. .

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Time for Children

Donna Chase

The Word Proclaimed: *A Short Sermon About a Long List of Reasons
I Love this Congregation*

Neil Dunnivant

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith

Keith Dove

**We shall love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
and our neighbors as ourselves.**

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: *Church House Steps* Ben Harper and The Blind Boys Of Alabama
Rejoice! Ensemble

Oh - I sat down upon the church house steps,
I sat down upon the church house steps,
I sat down upon the church house,
Down upon the church house steps,

With all my hopes and dreams,
All of my regrets.

Oh - I sat down upon the church house steps,
I sat down upon the church house steps,
I sat down,
I sat down upon the church house steps,

With all I have lost,
And with all I have been blessed.

Oh - I sat down,
Oh - I sat down,
Oh - I sat down upon,
I sat down upon the church house steps.

I reached to the sky
As I hung my head and wept.
Oh - I wept.

Oh - I sat down,
Oh - I sat down,
I sat down,
Oh - I sat down.

If these wings should fail me
(Won't you) meet me with another pair.

Charge and Benediction

Neil Dunnivant



Today's Worship Leaders

Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care | Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor
Keith Dove, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident | Donna Chase, Director of Christian Formation
Jill Hare, Lay Reader
James Keith, Associate Director of Music Ministry for Rejoice! | Rejoice! Ensemble

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGES

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 worshippers 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 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 worshippers; *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.

TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH FOR 2021 MINISTRY – This morning, we will hear from member Victoria Alexander as our campaign to support ministry in 2021 continues. We've learned these past seven months about "being church" in a new way; **hear what choir member Dan Kerns has to say** about it.

THE ROSEBUD IN THE SERVICE TODAY celebrates the birth of Margaret Reese Turner, who was born November 4, 2020. Margaret is the daughter of Elise & John Turner. The family resides at 306 Irving Place, Greensboro, NC 27408.

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.*)

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our grandmother, Kitty McGuirt, by Mary Scott, Mac and Catherine Faircloth.

PRAYERS FOR PARENTS: Today on **Facebook** and **Instagram**, we pray for parents who are waiting. Parents can also find support in our **Facebook group**, First Pres Parents. **More info here.**

NEXT SUNDAY: Confirmation Sunday. Both the 9 am and 11 am worship services will be livestreamed. *All 11am in-person worship seats have been reserved for family and guests of confirmands.* Director of Youth Ministry Kevin Murray will be preaching. 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**.
- Check our **Godly Play** and **Older Elementary** videos for children.

IN MEMORIAM

James Drake "Jim" Crosland
November 2, 2020

Grover Bentley "Ben" Walser
November 4, 2020