

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 9, 2021

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*Please sign the Welcome Pad, in-person or online.
Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.*

VOLUNTARY: Passacaglia in c minorJohann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Jill Duffield

CALL TO WORSHIPDolly Jacobs

Read together in unison.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

- Psalm 98:4-6

HYMN OF PRAISE: Brethren, We Have Met to Worship..... HOLY MANNA

Chancel Choir Ensemble

We invite you to worship through listening, and to refrain from singing at this time.

Brethren, we have met to worship
and adore the Lord our God.
Will you pray with all your power
while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit
of the holy One comes down.
Brethren, pray, and holy manna
will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you come and help us?
Moses' sister aided him.
Will you help the trembling mourners
who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior.
Tell them that he will be found.
Sisters, pray, and holy manna
will be showered all around.

Let us love our God supremely;
let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for sinners
till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven;
at his table we'll sit down.
Christ will gird himself and serve us
with sweet manna all around.

CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you; you call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with pride, quarrelling, and divisiveness.

Holy God, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.**

CHORAL RESPONSE: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Chancel Choir Ensemble

HYFRYDOL

We invite you to worship through listening, and to refrain from singing at this time.

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us they humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD READ: *1 John 5:1-6*

Readers: Lisa Allen (8:30 a.m.) | Connor Frick (11:00 a.m.)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP WITH GLADNESS: Jesus Loves Me!.....JESUS LOVES ME

*Please refrain from singing but we invite you to sign the song with us
as we prepare our hearts for the children's message.*

We ask the children remain in their seats in the pews for this time.

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGEKevin Murray

ANTHEM: My Eyes for Beauty Pine.....Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Chancel Choir Ensemble

My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for Goddes grace,
no other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face.
One splendour thence is shed from all the stars above:
'Tis named when God's name is said, 'tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.
And every gentle heart that burns with true desire,
is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.

- Robert Bridges

THE WORD READ: *John 15:9-17*

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: Joy Full.....Jill Duffield

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Keith Dove

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

– Traditional Apostles' Creed

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

There are offering baskets located at each entrance.

You may also 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: Peace Like a River..... arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

Chancel Choir Ensemble

I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got faith like a river in my soul.
I've got hope like a river in my soul.
I've got love like a river in my soul.

CLOSING HYMN: No. 366 – Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling..... HYFRYDOL

Please join us in singing together.



1. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us
2. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a tion; Pure and



all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy great sal -



nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
va tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee;



Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo ry, Till in



as Thy hosts a - bove; Pray, and praise Thee
heaven we take our place, Till we cast our



with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won der, love, and praise.

CURRENT COVID-19 GUIDELINES

We are currently in a modified Phase 1. Given the hopeful trends in our community, the increased numbers of people being vaccinated and the warmer weather, the Session has approved the following in-person activities:

Groups of 50 or less may meet outside on the church campus.

- All COVID safety protocols must be followed (masks, social distancing, etc.)
- Space must be reserved. Group leaders should contact Tim Millisor, tmillisor@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4793.

Groups of 25 or less may meet inside the church.

- All COVID safety protocols must be followed (masks, social distancing, etc.)
- Meeting rooms will be limited and assigned based on availability and group size.
- Group leaders should contact Tim Millisor to reserve space. *(Small groups will not be able to meet inside the church Sunday mornings because of the number of people in the building for worship and the need to clean between services.)*

Modified, in-person Sanctuary worship resumes.

- Two identical, in-person services, one at 8:30 am and one at 11 am, both in the Sanctuary with up to 175 worshipers. We will continue to alternate Sundays between Rejoice! and traditional worship.
- Registration will be required and all COVID safety protocols followed (masks, social distancing, etc.). You will be able to register online (fpcgreensboro.org, under the Sunday heading) beginning the Tuesday prior to worship, and if you are unable to register online you may call 336-478-4713 from 9 to 11 am the Tuesday prior to worship.
- Each week's 11 am service will be livestreamed.

Funerals, memorial services and weddings will be allowed in the sanctuary with up to 175 worshippers.

- All COVID safety protocols will be followed. Our pastors will be reaching out to those families who lost a loved one during the pandemic and are waiting to hold a service of witness to the resurrection in the sanctuary.

UPDATES ON OUR COVID GUIDELINES

are posted at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/TOGETHER.

COMING UP AT FPC

MONDAY:

- *Deconstructing Racism at FPC*, week five: The Greensboro Massacre, Black Lives Matter, and the Future. Video available Monday; Zoom conversations May 16 & 19.
- Book Club, 10:30 am, Cannon's Solarium. Masks & social distancing. Choosing books for next year.
- Little-Known Heroes in Scripture: Donna Chase on Dinah. Video Monday, then Zoom conversation May 17 at 2 pm.

TUESDAY:

- Tuesday Book Club, 1:30 pm, Garden Room. Masks & social distancing. *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

WEDNESDAY:

- Food Drive-By: 10 am to 2 pm on Elm Street in front of Redhead Hall. You can also bring diapers and wipes. *Can't make it Wednesday?* You can also drop off food, diapers, wipes, jeans, and hygiene kits on Sunday mornings at the check-in tent.
- While you're at the Food Drive-By, drop off worn-out jeans to recycle into insulation! They need to be at least 90% cotton; remove tags, stickers or plastic, and the Green Team will take it from there! More about the project: bluejeansgogreen.org.
- Conversation about week four of *Deconstructing Racism at FPC*, 5:30 pm on Zoom.

FUN FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN ON MAY 23

- Preschool Playdate for ages 4 and under with a parent on

the Greene Street Playground, 1-2 pm. John Alexander & Anne Albert will be there to talk with those interested in our Cherub and Credo choirs for rising 3-year-olds through first graders. Choirs will begin meeting this fall. You can also reach out to Anne Albert at aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org

- Kids Disciple Club for Kindergarten-5th grade on Paisley Playground, 3-4 pm. *Please sign up for these events. Link in the weekly family email, or contact Lisa Witherspoon, lwitherspoon@fpcgreensboro.org.*

MEALS ON WHEELS ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Our volunteers deliver meals to homebound seniors on the third Wednesdays of each month and on fifth Mondays during the year. Our next date is May 19, and we are looking for volunteers for three routes. The fifth Monday group needs volunteers for eight routes. And we are always looking for people to add to the substitute list! Contact Linda Allen, lkwallen70@gmail.com or 336-549-3367.

DISASTER RELIEF HYGIENE KITS

We are teaming with Oak Ridge Presbyterian to gather kits for disaster victims and others in need. Church World Service is reloading its supply to prepare for spring tornados and fall hurricanes. Create kits according to [these instructions](http://theseinstructions.org/assemble-kits/hygiene-kits) (cwskits.org/assemble-kits/hygiene-kits) and drop off at the Wednesday Food Drive-By or on Sunday mornings at the check-in tent on Greene Street. We will deliver all kits on June 11.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor
Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Keith Dove, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident
Kevin Murray, Director of Youth Ministry
Lisa Allen, Lay Reader (8:30 a.m.)
Connor Frick, Lay Reader 11:00 a.m.)
John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist
Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir
Chancel Choir Ensemble

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NEXT SUNDAY: Two identical services in the Sanctuary, 8:30 and 11 am, for up to 175 worshipers at each service. Rev. Jill Duffield will be preaching. Music from the Rejoice! Ensemble. The 11 am service will be livestreamed at fpcgreensboro.org.

Registration is required for all in-person services, and all COVID safety protocols will be followed (masks, social distancing, etc.). You can register online (fpcgreensboro.org, under the Sunday heading) beginning Tuesday, and if you are unable to register online, call 336-478-4713 from 9 to 11 am Tuesday.

- *Deconstructing Racism at FPC: Our Past, Present, and Future.* Conversation about the week's video, The Greensboro Massacre, Black Lives Matter, and the Future, on Zoom at 9:30 am. More info on the series at fpcgreensboro.org/deconstructing-racism-study. Series continues through May 26. Contact [Yolanda Baxter](mailto:ybaxter@fpcgreensboro.org), ybaxter@fpcgreensboro.org, for Zoom link.
- Sandie Gravett video series, *From Bondage to Covenant: Exodus and Becoming A Resurrection People* on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/fpcgreensboro). Explore what the early Church's model for Eastertide can teach us about the 50 days of Easter and becoming a Resurrection people.
- Homebuilders, Faith Matters and Commitment Classes join the *Deconstructing Racism* discussion on Zoom at 9:30 am. Contact [Yolanda Baxter](mailto:ybaxter@fpcgreensboro.org), ybaxter@fpcgreensboro.org, for Zoom link.
- Seekers class meets at 9:30 am via conference call, continuing a study of the Epistle of James. Anyone with a phone can participate. Contact [Gerard Davidson](mailto:g davidson@wardblacklaw.com), [gdavidson@wardblacklaw.com](mailto:g davidson@wardblacklaw.com).

ABOUT THIS MORNING'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Frank M. Lee and in loving memory of his mother, Dawson M. Lee, and brother, James G. Lee III. The flowers in the Tower Room are given to the glory of God and in memory of Elbert Wray Farlow, Jr., by his loving family.

FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE – You can honor or remember a friend or family member by donating flowers for our Sunday morning worship service in the Sanctuary. The flowers are accompanied by a note in the bulletin explaining their significance. The following dates are open: July 4, 18 & 25; August 1, 22 & 29; September 5, 12 & 19; October 17; and November 21. To learn more, contact Carolyn Yow, 336-478-4768 or cyow@fpcgreensboro.org.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to participating in the in-person offering, you may also give by web, app, or text. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text to download the SecureGive mobile app (Apple  or Android ) and for full instructions for giving via text. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give for more ways to give.

PRAYERS FOR PARENTS: Today on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), we pray for for parents of strong-willed children. Parents can also find support in our [Facebook group](#), First Pres Parents.

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.

We seek to serve as the hands of Christ in the world. Our creation care and hunger ministries have been recognized by the Presbyterian Church USA

