



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro

January 28, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

*We invite you to light a candle as you enter the worship space  
to prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

Gathering Music: *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.**

**Open the eyes of my heart;**

**I want to see you;**

**I want to see you;**

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.**

**Open the eyes of my heart;**

**I want to see you;**

**I want to see you;**

**to see you high and lifted up,  
shining in the light of your glory.**

**Pour out your power and love**

**as we sing "Holy, holy, holy."**

**Holy, holy, holy.**

**Holy, holy, holy.**

**Holy, holy, holy,**

**I want to see you.**

Welcome and Announcements

Jill Duffield



\* Call to Worship

Newton Cowan

Leader: God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

**All: God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.**

Leader: God embraces the wounded and broken.

**All: God knocks down the walls of division and strife.**

Leader: God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

**All: God is the light of our lives.**

Leader: God is the one who makes all things new.

**All: Praise be to God, now and forevermore!**

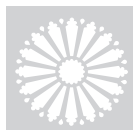
\* Song of Praise: *Be Thou My Vision*

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**



## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

### \* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

**Holy and all-powerful God, who commands all spirits, comforts those in distress, and casts out destructive forces, we confess that we are unable to do your will. We protect what is familiar and reject what is unknown. We admire those with courage but excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth. We forget that you are always with us, and that with you all things are possible. Forgive us, lead us, make us new. Remove our desire to heed false prophets, and show us your way; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of us all. Amen.**

*A brief period of silence is observed 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.**

### \* Passing of the Peace

### \* Response to the Peace: *Psalms 67*

Wendell Kimbrough

**Let the nations sing and be glad  
For the Lord is coming with justice.  
Let the nations sing and be glad  
For our God is coming with peace.  
Now let all the ends of the earth,  
Fill with holy wonder and joy,  
For our God is coming to reign as King!**

## THE WORD OF GOD

The Word Read: *Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

Caroline Brantley

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

A Moment of Godly Play for Children of All Ages

Anne Albert

The Word Read: *Mark 1:21-28*

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Word Proclaimed: *Astounded and Amazed*

Matt Bussell



## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\* Affirmation of Faith

Jill Duffield

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.**

*– from A Brief Statement 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

*You may also participate in the offering using the QR code on the back page of this bulletin. Information for giving by other options, including text, app, and regular mail, can be found there as well.*

Offertory: *Great Are You Lord*

*[Verse]*

**You give life, You are love  
You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope, You restore every heart that is broken  
And great are You, Lord**

*[Chorus]*

**It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only**

**All the earth will shout Your praise  
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing  
Great are You, Lord**

Song of Response: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Sing praises, Alleluia.  
Praise God Creator, God the Son,  
Praise God the Spirit three in one.  
Sing praises, sing praises,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\* Prayer of Dedication

Jill Duffield

\* Song of Sending: *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

**I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

\* Benediction

Matt Bussell

### **Today's Worship Leaders**

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor  
Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care  
Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission  
Anne Albert, Director of Worship  
Caroline Brantley, Lay Reader  
Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice!  
Rejoice! Ensemble

*\* Let us rise in body or spirit*

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Rooted and reaching in Christ's love, we will  
serve God as Spirit-led changemakers for good.

Our vision is to be a caring, compassionate, and inclusive faith  
community welcoming those who seek

an abundant relationship with Jesus Christ  
meaningful worship  
authentic connections  
lifelong learning  
transformative service

We are continually growing and evolving, even as we remain strongly  
rooted in the Greensboro community and the Presbyterian tradition.

Come as you are and prepare to be transformed by God's love.

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.

We seek to be God's changemakers for good in the world.  
FPC is a Matthew 25 church, and our creation care and hunger  
ministries have been recognized by the Presbyterian Church USA.



**TAKING ATTENDANCE:** The QR code, left, directs you to an online form; just open your smartphone camera, hold it over the code, and follow the prompts.



If you do not have a smartphone, you can pick up a physical copy of an attendance card as you enter the Life Center or Sanctuary. If using the paper form, place it in the offering at the end of the service. On the back of the card




is a prayer request form. Your submitted prayers will be prayed for by staff members and kept in strict confidence.

**NURSERY CARE IS PROVIDED** for infants through age 4 on the first floor of Mullin Life Center. Our Child Protection Policy helps ensure our care is safe, loving and appropriate.

#### WHAT TO DO – UNWELLNESS AND MEDICAL

**EMERGENCIES:** If during the service you or someone who is with you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency; or if you notice someone else having a medical event; please contact the closest usher, who can assist in the situation.

#### 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.

**USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED:** Contact Anne Albert, [aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336.478.4711.

**FOR MORE INFO ON CHURCH SCHOOL, UPCOMING SERVICES, AND OTHER EVENTS** • Check out the "Coming Up" insert in your bulletin • Subscribe to our e-news and Sunday preview emails at [fpcgreensboro.org/connect](http://fpcgreensboro.org/connect) • Visit [fpcgreensboro.org/events](http://fpcgreensboro.org/events).

**COLD, FLU & COVID SEASON IS HERE!** Let's take care of each other by staying home or masking and maintaining a safe distance if we have any symptoms. Many thanks!

**PASTOR ON CALL:** When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.

**WAYS TO GIVE:** In addition to the in-person offering, you may also give by mail, web, app, or text. Scan the QR code (*right*) to give online.

You can also go to [fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text](http://fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text) to download the FellowshipOne Giving mobile app (Apple  or Android ) and for instructions for giving via text. You

may also mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401. Go to [fpcgreensboro.org/give](http://fpcgreensboro.org/give) for more ways to give.



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**PARKING MINISTRY:** This ministry helps members with mobility issues get from their cars to the sanctuary for the 11 am service on Sundays. Two volunteers work on Greene Street 10:15-11:15 am. Passengers may be dropped off at the Greene Street door and will be escorted into the sanctuary. Drivers will be directed to a reserved space as needed. *Want to help?* Choose a Sunday at [fpcgreensboro.org/signup](http://fpcgreensboro.org/signup). Info: Tim Millisor, [tmillisor@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:tmillisor@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336.478.4793; or Nancy Courts, [nancy\\_courts@uncg.edu](mailto:nancy_courts@uncg.edu) or 336.273.1617.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Martha Kornegay Sharpless  
January 22, 2024



# COMING UP

## AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK OF JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 2024 • [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG)

### RIGHT ABOUT NOW

... it probably looks like the congregation has more men than usual. It's because about 150 FPC women are attending the **Women's Overnight Retreat** at Grandover. Keep participants in prayer as they end the retreat with an on-site worship service this morning, and be sure to check out what they've been doing on social media.

### LATER TODAY

- **Middle school youth group**, 5-6:30 pm in the Life Center.
- **High School Connections**, 6-7:30 pm at the Bristols' home.



### CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMER TRIP REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

Registration is open for all children & youth summer trips, including Passport Kids, high school Mission Trip to New Orleans, Middle School Conference, and Montreat High School Conference! Contact Lisa Witherspoon ([LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG)) for more information. Registration links at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP).



### Wednesday choir rehearsals

- Cherub Choir** (ages 3-kindergarten) 5-5:30 pm, Corl 303  
**Credo Choir** (1st and 2nd graders) 5-5:30 pm, Smith 301  
**Canticle Choir** (3rd grade - high school) 5:30-6:30 pm, Smith 301  
**Chancel Choir** (high school-adult) 7:15-8:30 pm, Smith 301

Contact Anne Albert ([AALBERT@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:AALBERT@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG)) for more info.

### NEXT SUNDAY

- **Communion Sunday.** Jill Duffield preaches at 9 and 11 am. Elder nominees will be announced during worship.
- **Adult series continues:** Using his book *God of Deliverance and Transformation* (available in the Welcome Center, \$10), retired pastor Mark Diehl leads a study of the Ten Commandments. Meets 10 am, Garden Room.
- **Class continues with Professor Sandie Gravett:** *Finding Common Ground: A Study of the Abrahamic Traditions*, YMBC and Agape classes combine for a study of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. 10 am, Redhead Hall.
- **Children's Milestones meet**, Corl building.
- **Confirmands meet** in Memorial 304 for "Will You Devote Yourself to the Church's Fellowship?", led by Donna Chase.
- **Kids Disciple Club**, 3-4:30 pm at church.
- **Winter Walking Group**, 3-4 pm.
- **Greensboro Youth Collective.** 5:30-7:30 pm, we will host Presby youth from across the city for YOCO!

## COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- **Planning Your 4th Quarter Series:** *What Is the 4th Quarter?* Presented by Karen Amirehsani, 5-6 pm, Garden Room. RSVP by Monday, February 5, to Debby Foster, [DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG) or 336.478.4702.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- **Souper Bowl of Caring** in the Life Center after 11 am worship. Donations go toward summer trip scholarships. Take-out available!
- **Shetler Place update**, 12:15 pm in the Garden Room. Bring your questions and hear what we know right now.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12: Book Club**, 10:30 am, Garden Room. F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, facilitated by Neil Dunnivant.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13: Book Club**, 1:30 pm, Garden Room. F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, facilitated by Neil Dunnivant.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14:

- **Ash Wednesday** service, 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.
- **Lenten Dinner & Devotions** begins, continues Wednesdays in February & March. Join the FPC family for fellowship, food, and a simple Lenten devotion. Dinner will be served 5:15-6:45 pm in Mullen Life Center. Staff will lead the devotion at 6 pm. Reservations are required by 5 pm Monday each week. Ages \$12 and up, \$10; ages 6-11, \$6; under 5, free. Household max, \$30. Sign up online ([FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP)) or with the QR code, left.



### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- **First Sunday in Lent.** Jill Duffield preaches.
- **Capital Campaign kickoff** – After 9 am and 11 am worship, take a tour of work to be done.
- **New church school series begins**, *Making Sense of the Bible* led by Chip Bristol, 10 am in the Garden Room.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20: "Our America: Lowballed,"** a documentary on discrimination in property assessments. With members from St. James and Westminster, we will be learning about the intersection of race and the challenge of affordable housing and exploring concrete ways to repair aspects of our broken system. This Racial Equity Ministry Team event is at 5:30 pm in the Garden Room.



is returning in March! Sign up now to be a consignor or a volunteer.

Go to [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/CONSIGNMENT](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/CONSIGNMENT) for more info. The sale benefits the Weekday Preschool Center, Backpack Beginnings, Carolina Adoption Services, and Room At The Inn.

## 2024 PLEDGE UPDATE

Total pledges so far have passed \$2.4 million, just \$341,898 from our goal of \$2.8 million. Pledge



online ([FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/GIVE/ANNUAL-PLEDGE](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/GIVE/ANNUAL-PLEDGE)), use the QR code (right), or email Christine Ciaccio ([CCIACCIO@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:CCIACCIO@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG)).

## LOOKING AHEAD: MARCH

### SUNDAY, MARCH 3: Communion Sunday and Third Sunday in Lent.

Jill Duffield preaches, 9 and 11. Congregational Meeting during worship.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6: Planning Your 4th Quarter Series: Estate Planning**, 5-6 pm, Garden Room. RSVP by Monday, March 4, to Debby Foster, [DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG) or 336.478.4702.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 10: Daylight Savings begins.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17: One service for dedication of Capital Campaign Gifts and Confirmation Sunday**, 11 am in sanctuary.