



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
January 29, 2023 – 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: *In the Garden*

C. Austin Miles

**I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses**

[Chorus]:

**And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known**

**He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing**

[Chorus]

**I stayed in the garden with Him
Though the night all around me is falling
But He bids me go, through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling**

[Chorus]

Welcome and Announcements

Jill Duffield

* Call to Worship

Newton Cowan

Leader: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**All: I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**

Leader: The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.

**All: And those who know your name put their trust in you,
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.**

– selected verses from Psalm 9

* Song of Praise: *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

Chris Tomlin

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed**

[Chorus]:

**My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace**

**The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures**

[Chorus]

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine
You are forever mine**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore us to the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. 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: *May Our God Be Known (Psalm 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: *Micah 6:1-8*

Lisa Ganem

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Moment of Godly Play for Children of All Ages

Lisa Witherspoon

The Word Read: *Matthew 5:1-12*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy." "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

Deborah Conner

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

– *Philippians 2:5-11*

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 by giving online at fpcgreensboro.org/give
or by mailing your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.*

Offertory: *Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

**I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, dear Lord, close to Thee.**

Offertory continues, over

[Refrain]:

**Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

**Thro' this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.**

[Refrain]

**When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.**

[Refrain]

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

Deborah Conner

* Song of Sending: *In Christ Alone*

Keith Getty

**In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness**

**Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live**

**There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

* Benediction

Jill Duffield



Today's Worship Leaders

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor
Deborah Conner, Interim Associate Pastor for Outreach
Newton Cowan, Transitional Director for Pastoral Care
Lisa Witherspoon, Director of Children's Ministry
Lisa Ganem, Lay Reader
Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice! and Discipleship Associate
Rejoice! Ensemble

** Let us rise in body or spirit*

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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 serve as the hands of Christ in the world. 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.

COVID GUIDELINES – Masks are optional on our campus.
Updates are posted at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/TOGETHER](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org/together).

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.

**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](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org/connect) •
Visit [fpcgreensboro.org/digital-formation](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org/digital-formation)

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

USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED: contact Anne Albert,
aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4711.

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.

COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK BEGINNING JANUARY 29, 2023 • FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

47% OF THE STUDENTS AT UNCG EXPERIENCE FOOD INSECURITY. The Outreach Committee decided that we could help through the university SAFE fund (Student Assistance Funds for Emergencies) which provides one-time assistance to matriculating students who experience short-term financial emergencies. These include medical care, loss of shelter, travel costs for family situations, and food insecurity. This immediate support provides the “safety net” students need to keep them on the path to graduation. Because of the generosity of the members of FPC to the Neil Dunnivant Hunger Ministries, our gift of \$40,000 will go toward food insecurity.



Jill and Deborah at UNCG's main dining area with UNCG folks Dr. Brett Carter, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Dr. Cathy Akens, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; and Jeff Sapp, Executive Director of Development in the College of Arts and Sciences.

LATER TODAY: YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT at Backpack Beginnings, 2-4 pm, for grades 8-12. Drop-off and pick-up at 3711 Alliance Dr, Greensboro.
Info: Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.



MON, JANUARY 30

- **LECTIO DIVINA:** Led by Rev. David Partington on Zoom at 11 am. Contact David (DCPSBW197@GMAIL.COM) for link.
- **THE EARTH CARE TEAM** invites anyone interested in caring for God's creation to join us at our meeting, 4 pm in the Garden Room.

TUES, JANUARY 31

- **PEACEHAVEN FARM BIBLE STUDY** holds its first gathering of the year, 6:30 pm on Zoom. Scripture reading, discussion, song, laughter, and prayer. Get the link from Yolanda Baxter, YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

WED, FEBRUARY 1

- **MEN'S LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY:** 7:30 am on Zoom. Info: Jack Harrington, JACKHARRINGTON44@GMAIL.COM.
- **WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WOMEN:** 8:45 am in Main 125. Contact Betsy Harrington, BETSYHARRINGTON@TRIAD.RR.COM.
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP:** 10-11:45 am, Garden Room. Handcraft blankets & more for nonprofits. Contact B.J. Williams, 336-288-8601, or Hannah Britt, 336-288-9289.
- **FOOD DRIVE-BY:** Drop off cans for Urban Ministry 10 am-2 pm in front of Redhead Hall. Greeters needed – sign up at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.

FRI, FEBRUARY 3

- **RSVP DEADLINE** for February 8 Fork & Faith luncheon. Contact Martha Holt at MARTHA.HOLT@ATT.NET or 336-908-7745.

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- **COFFEE & DOUGHNUT FELLOWSHIP:** 8:30 am in Mullin Life Center, before the Rejoice! service at 9.
- **TWO WORSHIP SERVICES:** 9 am Rejoice! in Mullin Life Center and 11 am Sanctuary, with livestream.
- **MILESTONES IN THE FAITH** for children, 10 am. Info: Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.
- **YOUTH CLASSES, 10 AM**
 - Confirmation: *Will you devote yourself to the church's teachings?* Donna Chase leads Confirmands in Memorial 304; Newton Cowan leads parents in Memorial 300.
 - Middle & high school, Memorial 303.

• ADULT CLASSES, 10 AM



- *Who Is Jesus, Through Scripture & Art: From Raphael to Rembrandt*; New class begins, led by Jerry Beavers. Sundays through February 19, Garden Room.

- *Jeremiah: A Guide for Living in Turbulent Times*. Sandie Gravett continues a look at the prophet's 40-year career, to find hope in difficult days. Redhead Hall, through March.

- *Letter to the Ephesians* in Seekers, M125.

• LATER IN THE DAY

- **KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB** Third- through fifth-graders are invited to join! With Timothy 4:12 as our guide, we'll have Bible study, service, and fun!! 3-4:30 pm, Corl 306.
- **YOUTH GROUP & DINNER** MLC, 6-7:30 pm.

February Highlights

FORK & FAITH luncheon for women. February 8, noon, Life Center. \$10. Baked potato bar with salad & dessert. Stay after to assemble Valentine's goodies for church staff!



MIDDLEFEST CHORAL FESTIVAL finale concert, February 11, 4 pm.

UNCG UNIVERSITY CHOIRS CONCERT, February 19, at 5 pm.

SOUPERBOWL OF CARING, February 12 after 11 am service in Mullin Life Center. Come enjoy fellowship and a warm bowl of soup while supporting FPC youth! Donations will be accepted and all proceeds will go to FPC youth missions. If you would like to provide a pot of soup, contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS 101, presentation, panel Q & A. February 19, 4-5:30 pm, Garden Room.



ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22: Imposition of Ashes service at 6 pm, also at Preschool Chapel, 9:30 am and open to all.

BEING A WITNESS: PCUSA takes the call of Christ to Washington and the United Nations. Hear from Public Witness Director Jimmie Hawkins and our member Victoria Alexander, a Young Adult Volunteer at the U.N. February 26, 10 am, Garden Room.



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: We currently are \$128,430 away from fully funding our ministries for 2023. A little more than half of that amount we expect to receive from members who usually pledge but have not yet sent in their pledges. The deficit 2023 budget balance, \$68,088, we pray will come from members who have not pledged in the past, but will be moved to commit to offering something in support of our ministries.