



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro  
February 2, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
COMMUNION SUNDAY

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

Gathering Music: Hymn No. 693 – *Though I May Speak*

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,**

**but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.**

Welcome & Announcements

Matt Bussell

Nominating Committee Announcement

Nancy Moore

\* Call to Worship

Caroline Phillips

Leader: We have come to worship God, the living God,  
**All: who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.**

Leader: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,  
**All: who answers the forces of hatred and hurt  
with the power of grace.**

Leader: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,  
**All: who chooses all of us to receive and carry  
the Word of hope, peace, and love.**

\* Song of Praise: Hymn No. 300 – *We Are One in the Spirit*

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;  
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:**

*[Refrain]:*

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;  
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: *[Refrain]***

**We will work with each other; we will work side by side;  
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,  
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: *[Refrain]***

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: *[Refrain]***

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

\* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Caroline Phillips

**Generous God,  
when we set our tables,  
we imagine who belongs.  
We are satisfied to welcome  
those who we call our own.  
Our boundaries are drawn for our own family,  
our own congregation, our own neighborhood.  
We limit the seating to those  
who make us comfortable,  
and lay out the welcome mat  
for those who we choose to welcome.  
But your kingdom has no boundary.  
Before our birth you have known, loved,  
and claimed each and every one.  
Softening our hearts to those we rage against.**

**Restore us to your vision of who belongs at the table.  
Renew us with your abundant mercy and love,  
which know no end. 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: Hymn No. 582 – *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

The Word Read: *1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

Jane Forbes Fields

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in

The Word Read *continues, over*

part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

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: *Luke 4:21-30*

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Word Proclaimed: *Who Belongs?*

Matt Bussell



## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Doug McLeroy

Great Thanksgiving

Matt Bussell

One: The Lord be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is right and our great delight to praise you, O God ... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Sanctus (in unison)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

One: You are holy, O God of power and might, and blessed is Jesus Christ, the one who comes in your name ... Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim together the mystery of faith:

**Many: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

One: Come, then, life-giving Spirit, brood over these bodily things and make us into one body with Christ ... We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Many: Amen.**

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.**

The Lord's Prayer *continues, over*

**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.**

Words of Institution

Doug McLeroy

Communion of the People

Music during Communion: Hymn No. 518 – *Your Only Son*  
*Rejoice! Ensemble*

Prayer after Communion

Matt Bussell

Call for the Offering

Doug McLeroy

*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: Hymn No. 515 – *I Come with Joy*

**I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.**

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

\* Song of Sending: Hymn No. 600 – *Amen*

**Amen, amen.  
Amen, amen, amen.**

\* Benediction

Matt Bussell

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

Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission  
Caroline Phillips, Pastoral Care  
Doug McLeroy, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care  
Lisa Witherspoon, Director of Children & Youth Ministry  
Jane Forbes Fields, Lay Reader  
Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice!  
Rejoice! Ensemble

"Though I May Speak" Text: Hal H. Hopson; Music: English folk melody

"We Are One in the Spirit" Text and Music: Peter Scholtes

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" Text: Trad. liturgical text; Music: Paul M. Vasile.

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng.*

"Amen" Text: Trad. liturgical text; Music: African American

*\* 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 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.

**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 10:30-11:15 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. One volunteer is needed after the service until 12:15 pm. *Want to help?* Choose a Sunday at [fpcgreensboro.org/signup](http://fpcgreensboro.org/signup).

**TODAY IS COMMUNION SUNDAY:** All are welcome to the Lord's table. Our Communion bread is gluten free. If you are unable to come forward, please raise a hand and an elder will come to you to serve you. We pray that as Christ meets you here you will be refreshed for the journey and strengthened in faith.

**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).

**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.



**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.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth K. Harrison Bringle  
January 25, 2025





# COMING UP

A T F I R S T P R E S B Y T E R I A N

## LATER TODAY

- **KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB** for grades 3-5, 3-4:30 pm, Life Center
- **SUNDAY FUNDAY** for youth. *Bring a friend for The Princess Bride!* 5:30 pm in the Life Center

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2 | [See our full calendar at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org)

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST & DEVOTIONS:** 7:15-7:45 am, Chick-Fil-A on Pisgah Church Road.
- **RSVP DEADLINE** for Presbyterian Women luncheon with speaker Rev. Mark Diehl. Luncheon is February 10 at noon in Mullin Life Center, \$10. Make a paid reservation at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org), by calling 336-478-4799, or at the Welcome Center desk.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- **FIRST FAMILIES:** Monthly gathering for families with young children to get to know each other. Hosts rotate, dinner provided, small fee for onsite childcare. First Fridays, 6-8 pm. Contact Lorie Jones, [LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM).
- **FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE:** Kate & Tom Gillespie host a monthly couples' gathering at their home. First Fridays, 7-8:30 pm. Contact [KATEHUDELSON@ICLOUD.COM](mailto:KATEHUDELSON@ICLOUD.COM).

## NEXT SUNDAY IS MULLIN FORUM SUNDAY



As part of our 200th February focus on Pastoral Leadership, we welcome **KAVIN ROWE** to preach both services. Kavin attended FPC as a child, and is now vice dean of faculty and George Washington Ivey Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School.

[FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/200](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org/200)

**SOUPER BOWL POTLUCK!** After worship, come to the Life Center for a hot bowl to benefit youth ministry and local hunger efforts! Use the QR Code (right) to sign up to bring your favorite soup to share.



**AT 4 PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM,** Kavin Rowe will discuss his book *Christianity's Surprise: A Sure and Certain Hope*.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 1



**NEIL'S MEALS:** Through your efforts and in partnership with Out of the Garden Project, we help feed our Guilford County neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Join us **Saturday, March 1**, in Mullin Life Center to help make a difference in our community. Registration will be at 8:30 am and we will begin packing at 9 am. *Children 8 to 13 years old are welcome to attend and participate with an accompanying adult.*

## SIGN UP NOW



**FEBRUARY 9:  
NEXT SUNDAY IN  
CHURCH SCHOOL, 10 AM**

- **Thrivers: The Surprising Reasons Why Some Kids Struggle and Others Shine.** Faithful Families class, Memorial 304.
- **The Disciples of Jesus.** Sandie Gravett series in YMBC & Agape classes, Redhead Hall.
- Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Always a Guest* in the Commitment Class, Blair Hagan Room.
- **200th anniversary: Pastoral Leadership** – Rev. Neil Dunnivant speaks about Dr. Sidney F. Batts, senior pastor 2001-2018. Come as You Are class, Garden Room.
- **Gospel of John** in the Seekers class, Main 125.
- Youth will meet for **3D - Doughnuts, Dialogue and Devotions.** Memorial 303.
- **Confirmation:** Confirmands meet in Memorial 300.
- **Milestones of Faith:** Preschool-elementary age children will develop a strong foundation for their growing faith in these annual classes, Sundays through March 2, Corl building.

**LATER IN THE DAY**

**YOUTH GROUP:** Middle School, 5-6 pm; dinner for all, 6-6:30 pm; High School, 6:30-7:30 pm. Life Center.



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

MEALS • EVENINGS • OVERNIGHT

Our Winter Emergency Shelter provides dinner & a warm place to sleep for 15 men each night in the Shetler Building. **Please find a way to help** – that's what Jesus would do! *Use the QR code for more info and sign-up links.*



**SUNDAY,  
MARCH 2**

- **One 11 am service:** Confirmation Sunday
- **Congregational Meeting** after worship, to vote on the slate of church officers. *Slate will be announced during worship today.*

**AUTHOR TO LEAD  
LENTEN RETREAT 2025**



**SIGN UP NOW** for our Lenten retreat, *Meeting God in the Longings of Our Hearts*, being held Saturday, March 8, 9 am-3 pm at the church. Men and women of the church are invited to join author Jeff Crosby and Rev. Grier Booker as we deepen our understanding of ourselves and cultivate a more profound connection with our spirituality. Worship leaders will be Jill Duffield, Anne Albert & Will Edwards. Donna Chase and the Adult Formation Committee will guide activities. Registration including catered lunch is \$50. Books can be purchased at the Welcome Center reception desk. *RSVP by Monday, March 3.*

