



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
March 26, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Gathering Music: *Behold*

Taylor Leonhardt

**The empty filled, the wounded healed
The broken back together
The poor are blessed, the weary rest
We will dance forever**

**The blinded see, the chained are free
The doubtful now believer
The outcast known, the orphan home
You are my redeemer**

**Behold, Behold, Behold what love can do
Behold, Behold He's making all things new**

**The lost returned, the voiceless heard
The mourner now rejoicing
The mountains shake the world awake
Creation all composing**

**The sad untrue, the earth renewed
The song has found its singer
The darkness light, the dead alive
You are my redeemer**

**We've been struck down, we're not destroyed.
We've sown in tears, we'll reap in joy.**

My eyes are open!

Welcome and Announcements

Jill Duffield

* Call to Worship

Deborah Conner

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come?

People: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: The Lord will keep you from all evil,

People: he will keep your life.

**All: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on forevermore.**

– Psalm 121 adapted

* Song of Praise: *Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

**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

Our God, whose Son is the light of the world, in his penetrating light we acknowledge our darkness; in his constant grace, our careless love; in his generous giving, our sordid grasping; in his equal justice, our dire prejudice; in his fortitude, our fearful failure; in his inclusive love, our deep divisions; in his pure sacrifice, our soiling sins. But in his Cross is our forgiveness, and in his resurrection our enduring hope. The pardon and the promise now we claim, in penitence and faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

– Horton Davies

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: *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

Lisa Ganem

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Moment of Godly Play for Children of All Ages

Donna Chase

The Word Read: *John 11:1-45*

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the

place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying

The Word Read *continues, over*

against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed: *A Witness to Resurrection*

Newton Cowan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

Jill Duffield

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**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.**

– 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: *Ain't No Grave*

**Shame is a prison as cruel as a grave
Shame is a robber and he's come to take my name
Love is my redeemer lifting me up from the ground
Love is the power where my freedom song is found**

[Chorus]:

**There ain't no grave gonna hold my body down
There ain't no grave gonna hold my body down
When I hear that trumpet sound, I'm gonna rise up out of the ground
There ain't no grave gonna hold my body down**

Offertory continues, over

**Fear is a liar with a smooth and velvet tongue
Fear is a tyrant, he's always telling me to run
Love is resurrection and love is a trumpet sound
Love is my weapon, I'm gonna take my giants down**

**There was a battle, a war between death and life
There on a tree the Lamb of God was crucified
He went on down to hell, He took back every key
He rose up as a lion and He's setting all the captives free**

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

OLD HUNDRETH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, the heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

Jill Duffield

* Song of Sending: *Arise My Soul, Arise*

Kevin Twit

**Arise, my soul, arise;
Shake off the guilty fears;
The bleeding Sacrifice
In my behalf appears:
Before the throne my Surety stands,
Before the throne my Surety stands:
My name is written on His hands.**

[Chorus]:

**Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise**

**He ever lives above,
For me to intercede,
His all-redeeming love,
His precious blood to plead;
His blood atoned for all our race,
His blood atoned for all our race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.**

[Chorus]

**Five bleeding wounds He bears,
Received on Calvary;
They pour effectual pray'rs,
They strongly plead for me:
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"**

[Chorus]

**My God is reconciled;
His pard'ning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child;
I can no longer fear;
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And, "Father, Abba, Father," cry.**

[Chorus]

* Benediction

Newton Cowan

Today's Worship Leaders

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor
Deborah Conner, Interim Associate Pastor for Outreach
Newton Cowan, Transitional Director for Pastoral Care
Donna Chase, Director of Christian Formation
Lisa Ganem, Lay Reader
Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice!
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.



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 • Visit fpcgreensboro.org/digital-formation

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**  (“1stpresgo”) to get more of our posts in your newsfeed.

THE LITURGICAL COLOR PURPLE seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors’ stoles signifies the season of Lent.

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 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 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.

COVID GUIDELINES – Masks are optional on our campus. Updates are posted at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/TOGETHER.

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

COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 26, 2023 • FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

LATER TODAY

YOCO AT GUILFORD PARK: 6-7:30 pm. Youth from six churches in Greensboro will gather at Guilford Park Presbyterian, 2100 Fernwood Drive. Info: Donna Chase, DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

For regular weekly events, please refer to the calendar at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

WED, MARCH 29

- **VETERANS LUNCHEON**, noon in Redhead Hall. All veterans and spouses of veterans are invited, bring a side dish if you can. Marty Smith will present a program on Quilts of Valor.
- **CENTERING PRAYER GROUP:** Noon on Zoom, led by Deborah Conner. RSVP: YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

THU, MARCH 30

- **10 WARNING SIGNS OF ALZHEIMER'S:** 1-3 pm in Redhead Hall. Learn about the difference between normal aging and Alzheimer's, common warning signs, the importance of early detection and benefits of diagnosis, and expectations for the diagnostic process. Led by Dr. Cheryl Greenberg from the Alzheimer's Association.
- **LENTEN YOGA:** 4:30 pm, Virginia Gilmer Room, led by Rev. Virginia Lee Wood. RSVP: YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG
- **MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE:** 5:30 pm in the Life Center with Hot Dish & Hope guests.

HOLY WEEK begins next Sunday

APRIL 2: PALM SUNDAY.

- Children sing, 9 & 11 am.
- Marcel Dupré's *Stations of the Cross*, 5 pm.

APRIL 6: NEW MAUNDY THURSDAY service, Life Center, 6 pm.

APRIL 7: TENEBRAE SERVICE. 7:30 pm, sanctuary. *Child care with reservation:* LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

APRIL 8: EASTER VIGIL. 7:30 pm. Memorial Columbarium & sanctuary. *Child care with reservation:* LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

APRIL 9: EASTER SUNDAY.

- Sunrise service, 7 am, Memorial Columbarium.
- Bring a flower for the cross.
- Sanctuary services, 9 & 11.
- Children's Resurrection Egg Hunt, 10 am.

Exciting news! Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, April 16, to hear a report from the Associate Pastor for Outreach Nominating Committee. The meeting will begin at 5 pm on Zoom. The link will be emailed that afternoon. Please plan to participate!

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 2, IS PALM SUNDAY

- **COFFEE & DOUGHNUT FELLOWSHIP:** 8:30 am in Mullin Life Center, before the Rejoice! service.
- **TWO WORSHIP SERVICES:** 9 am Rejoice! in Mullin Life Center and 11 am Sanctuary, with livestream.
- **YOUTH, PLUS PRESCHOOL - ELEMENTARY CHILDREN** (with parents) are invited to the back of the Life Center at 10 am. We will travel through the church visiting Holy Week stations, ending on the Playground for fellowship & refreshments.
- **LATER IN THE DAY**
 - **Kids Disciple Club:** Third- through fifth-graders meet for Bible study, service, and fun! 3-4:30 pm, Corl 306.
 - **Marcel Dupré's Stations of the Cross,** 5 pm in the sanctuary. John Alexander, organ; Jill Duffield, narrator.
 - **Youth group,** 6-7:30 pm. Dinner and creative! Self-guided Lenten prayer stations and a labyrinth walk.
- **ADULT CLASSES, 10 AM**
 - **NEW STUDY BEGINS – Easter Sightings: Walk with Jesus Following the Resurrection,** led by Rev. Kate Huddelson Gillespie, a retired PCUSA minister. Begins with “Darkness at Noon on a Hill.” Faith Builders class, Myers Loyalty Room.
 - **NEW STUDY BEGINS –** Sandie Gravett on 2 *Corinthians*, **“For whenever I am weak, then I am strong.”** Hosted by YMBC, Redhead Hall.
 - Rev. Newton Cowan leads **“A Walk Through Holy Week.”** Agape Class, Garden Room.
 - **Study and discuss the “Being a Witness” devotional** with the Commitment Class, Blair Hagan Room.
 - **Seekers** in M125.

WIPE & DIAPER SHOWER: Let's help our Afghan refugee friends prepare for their new baby! A hearty supply of wipes and diapers (*sizes Newborn to 6 months*) would be a tremendous blessing for Mohammad and Wahzma, welcoming their third son in late April. Through Easter Sunday, you can drop these items in the wagon in the Welcome Center.



I am a regular at the Men's Food & Fellowship gatherings. Men coming together for breakfast and sharing stories about life's work and challenges through a faith lens creates community and belonging. We are developing a place to strengthen spiritual bonds and encourage fellowship. These conversations, where we are sharing each other's beliefs and perspectives, serve as a reminder of the importance of faith in our daily lives and provide a space for spiritual growth and friendship.

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.” – Hebrews 10:24



Sam Turner,
FPC Elder

Our next Men's Food & Fellowship is April 22: Transformation! Join us for breakfast and inspiring stories from our member, Bill Pinckney and Anthony Bass from StepUp Greensboro. 8:30-10 am in the Life Center. RSVP by April 20 to Debby Foster (DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336-478-4702).