

First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro April 2, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

PALM SUNDAY

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

Gathering Music: Holy Spirit

Brian and Katie Torwalt

There's nothing worth more, that will ever come close No thing can compare, You're our living hope Your Presence

I've tasted and seen, of the sweetest of Loves Where my heart becomes free, and my shame is undone In Your Presence, Lord

Holy Spirit You are welcome here Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere Your Glory God is what our hearts long for To be overcome by Your Presence Lord

Let us become more aware of Your Presence Let us experience the Glory of Your Goodness

Holy Spirit You are welcome here Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere Your Glory God is what our hearts long for To be overcome by Your Presence, Lord

Welcome and Announcements

Jill Duffield



* Call to Worship

Leader:	Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
All:	Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Leader:	Lo, your king comes to you;
All:	triumphant and victorious is he,
Leader:	humble and riding on a donkey.
All:	on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

* Song of Praise: Hosanna to the Son of David! Canticle, Credo and Cherub Choirs Radha Upton, piano Michael Bedford

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, sanna, Jesus comes!

Riding on a donkey through the city streets, Jesus smiles and waves to everyone he meets.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, sanna, Jesus comes!

See palm branches waving as the people say, "Blest is he who comes on this triumphant day!"

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, sanna, Jesus comes!

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

* Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Save us, O God, for we are surrounded by danger and we live in death's shadow. Forgive us when we fail to stand with the suffering, when fear causes us to close our eyes to wrongdoing, when weakness makes us turn back from following you. Lift us up to the hope and healing of the cross; make us bearers of the love of Jesus, poured out for the world. 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: The Humblest of Them All Canticle, Credo and Cherub Choirs Radha Upton, piano

Kelly Vaneman

The road to Jerusalem with palm leaves was paved As Jesus rode into town, all people to save. He could have ridden on a grand, noble steed, but instead God chose a donkey; it was all that he'd need.

He chose the lowly; He chose the small; He chose the littlest ones of them all. He chose the humblest of them all.

The path we are walking on is barely begun, But we've chosen to follow by God's gracious Son.

He chose the lowly; He chose the small; He chose the littlest ones of them all. He chose the humblest of them all.

The lowly, the little, the meek and the small, He chooses the humblest of us all.



THE WORD OF GOD

The Word Read: Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

Andrew Brantley

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

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 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

The Word Proclaimed: A Happening

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

Newton Cowan

Jill Duffield

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

– Colossians 1:15-20

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

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!

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 And great are You, Lord!

And 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

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, the heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

Newton Cowan



* Song of Sending: O Love That Will Not Let Me Go Rejoice! Ensemble

> Oh love that will not let me go I rest my weary soul in thee I give thee back the life I owe That in thine ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be

> Oh light that followest all my way I yield my flickering torch to thee My heart restores its borrowed ray That in thy sunshine's blaze its day May brighter, fairer be

Oh joy that seekest me through pain I cannot close my heart to thee I trace the rainbow through the rain And feel the promise is not vain That morn shall tearless be

Oh cross that liftest up my head I dare not ask to fly from thee I lay in dust's life's glory dead And from the ground there blossoms red Life that shall endless be

* Benediction

Jill Duffield



Today's Worship Leaders

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor Rachel Fitch, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident Newton Cowan, Transitional Director for Pastoral Care Lisa Witherspoon, Director of Children's Ministry Andrew Brantley, Lay Reader Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice! John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist Anne Albert, Director of Worship Radha Upton, Piano Canticle, Credo and Cherub Choirs Rejoice! Ensemble

* Let us rise in body or spirit

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HOLY WEEK 2023

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

April 6, 6 pm in the Life Center. Communion at the round tables and music from the Rejoice! band

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 7, 7:30 pm in the sanctuary, with music from the Chancel Choir. The lights gradually lower into darkness as we reflect on Christ's death.

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

April 8, begins 7:30 pm in Memorial Columbarium. We carry the light into the sanctuary, with music from traditional and Rejoice! musicians.

Easter Sunday

April 9, bring a flower for the cross!

- 7 am Sunrise service in Memorial Columbarium
- 9 and 11 am traditional services with brass in the sanctuary
 - Resurrection Egg Hunt at 10 am for children.

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 () ("1stpresgso") 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.

IN MEMORIAM

Peter V. Vanstory May 12, 1933 - October 24, 2022

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." (*Matthew 7:12*) These words of Jesus are engraved in Peter Vanstory's book of life, for he had a kind word and a smile for everyone and was always willing to extend a hand to those who needed a lift up.

Peter was born in Greensboro on May 12, 1933, to Cornelius "Neil" Vanstory and Margaret Vanstory. As the great-grandson of Jacob Henry Smith, the storied pastor of First Presbyterian, he began a lifetime of membership and service to this church.

In his youth he attended The Choate School, now known as Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut. He returned to North Carolina for his college years at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Upon leaving Chapel Hill, he joined the United States Marine Corps and served for two years on active duty and for another six years in the reserves. Ever faithful in all his commitments, Peter took to heart the Marine Corps motto, Semper Fideles. He pasted stickers of the Marine Corps emblem on many of his possessions. More importantly, he actively worked to help military reservists return to employment in civilian life as a member of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Not long after completing his military service, Peter returned to his hometown to work in insurance sales with Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company (now merged into Lincoln Financial Group). No doubt his friendly, outgoing personality played a big role in the success he enjoyed in that endeavor. When he retired from the insurance field, he had a second successful career as vice-president of new business sales for Carolina Bank (now merged in First Bank).

More than anything else, his faithfulness was fully expressed by his devotion to First Presbyterian Church. At various times he held almost every position of leadership and service, from deacon, elder, treasurer, usher, Sunday School teacher, to numerous stewardship and pastoral care committees. He was a devoted member of the Young Men's Bible Class and served a term as its president.

Peter was one of the organizers of the church's nonprofit corporation Prison Ministry of Greensboro, Inc., which was formed to carry out Lacy McAlister's vision of ministering to those "sick and in prison." (Matthew 25: 31-46.) Peter was its first president, and he helped many a soul make the journey from incarceration to freedom. His kindness and concern for others extended to all he met in all walks of life.

For more than thirty years, he served on the board of directors of the Salvation Army in Greensboro. He was not one for short-term commitments.

Peter will be fondly remembered by all who knew him as a kind soul, full of life, ready with a smile, a joke, a laugh. He often assigned a nickname to those he befriended, his unique term of endearment which announced their special place in his world.

His life was not without loss. The most significant was the death of his beloved wife Harriet Funk Vanstory after forty-four happy years together. Yet he struggled on, sustained by his network of friends, family, and church members.

Peter is survived by his children, Peter V. Vanstory, Jr.; Leigh Vanstory Poe; and Pennington Vanstory; by his granddaughter Caroline M. Poe and stepgrandchildren Stuart Poe and Courtney DeTemple; by his brother C.M. Vanstory III; and by their families.

Surely goodness and mercy followed Peter throughout his life. The Session expresses their condolences to his family and rejoices with them in the life a faithful servant who now resides with all the saints in the presence of the glory of God. May he be long remembered among us.

- The Session of First Presbyterian Church

E O M I N G U P A T F I R S T P R E S B Y T E R I A N



- 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, with a labyrinth walk.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

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. (See back page)

HIGHLIGHTS: SMALL GROUPS & GATHERINGS

TUES, APRIL 11

• BOOK CLUB: 1:30 pm, Garden Room. Wholehearted Faith by Rachel Held Evans, facilitated by Deborah Conner.

MON, APRIL 17

• BOOK CLUB: 10:30 am, Garden Room. *The Exiles* by Cristiana Kline, facilitated Kitty Robison.

TUES, APRIL 18 and 25

• PEACEHAVEN FARM SMALL GROUP, 6:30-7:30 pm on Zoom. Young adults of all abilities meet for scripture reading, discussion, song, laughter & prayer. Contact Donna Chase, DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

WED, APRIL 19

• FORK & FAITH LUNCHEON: Join other women for lunch, fellowship and sharing our lives. Noon, Mullin Life Center. *RSVP by noon April 14* to Martha Holt, MARTHA.HOLT@ATT.NET or call 336.908.7745.

SAT, APRIL 22

• MEN'S FOOD & FELLOWSHIP: Transformation! Join us for breakfast and inspiring stories of transformation, from our member Bill Pinckard and Anthony Bass from StepUp Greensboro. 8:30-10 am in the Life Center. *RSVP by April 20* to Debby Foster, DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG OT 336.478.4702.

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

HAPPENING AT FPC: APRIL, MAY, BEYOND



SAT, APRIL 29

PARTY IN THE PARK: 3-5 pm,

Welcome Center parking lot. Everyone is invited! Intergenerational & communitywide celebration with craft & art stations, fire truck, snow cones, face painting and more! Volunteers will hand out candy – we have 7 cars signed up and are looking for 33 more to decorate their trunks and hand out candy! Sign up at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/ SIGNUP OR CONTACT LISA, LWITHERSPOON@ FPCGREENSBORO.ORG for more info.

SUN, APRIL 30 EARTH DAY EARTH CARE

CELEBRATION in the Welcome Center, 9 am-12:30 pm. Expand the ways you can Refuse, Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle with leaders from Beyond Plastics Greensboro, Solar



Power Now, Deep Roots Market, and City of Greensboro recycling. Sponsored by FPC's Earth Care Team.

adult formation

SUN, APRIL 23 through MAY 7

 MATTHEW 25 ADULT ELECTIVE SERIES in church school, 10 am Sundays in Memorial 304.



- April 23, *The Climate Revolution* video and discussion.
- April 30, Low-Income Housing in the Triad, led by Grant Duffield.
- May 7, Housing Solutions and The Church, led by David Kolosieke.

APRIL 19 - MAY 24

• CENTERING PRAYER GROUP returns Wednesdays, noon on Zoom. Led by Deborah Conner. Get the Zoom link: YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

APRIL 20 - MAY 25

• YOGA returns Thursdays, 4:30 pm, Virginia Gilmer Room. Led by Rev. Virginia Lee Wood. If you're coming for the first time, RSVP: ybaxter@ FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

music

FRI, APRIL 21

• CARSON HAYES GRADUATE ORGAN RECITAL, 7:30 pm, sanctuary. Free.

WED, MAY 17

• LIFE OF THE PARTY! 6 pm in

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the sanctuary. The children's musical tells the story of Mary and Martha, as composed by Allen Pote and Tom Long. Featuring Canticle, Credo, and Cherub choirs.

HAPPENING AT FPC: APRIL, MAY, BEYOND

children + families

SUN, APRIL 23

• STORYBOOK BIBLE PRESENTATION for 3-year-olds. 10 am, Memorial Chapel.

SUN, MAY 7

• KDC YEAR-END PARTY: 3:30-5:30 pm. Kids Disciple Club (3rd- through 5thgraders) end the year with a Splatter Party at Mad Splatter. \$20 per child, limited spots available, RSVP at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.

JULY 31 - AUGUST 3

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER

CAMPS! Vacation Bible School, ages 3-rising 2nd-graders.

Kids Disciple Club, for rising 3rd-5th graders. More info: FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/ SIGNUP.



pastoral care

WED, APRIL 19 and MAY 17

Info: Rev. Doug McLeroy, 336.478.4739 or dmcLeroy@ FPcgreensboro.org.

LAMENTATIONS,

grief support group. 11 am, Myers Loyalty Room.

SPIRITUS,

caregiver support group. 2 pm, Myers Loyalty Room.

youth

WED, APRIL 19

• MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST, 7:30 am, Chick-fil-A on Pisgah Church Road.

SUN, APRIL 23

 BACKPACK BEGINNINGS SERVICE PROJECT for youth, 2-3:30 pm at 3711 Alliance Drive. Contact Lisa Witherspoon,

336.478.4726 or LWITHERPSOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

FRI, MAY 5

• YOUTH YEAR-END CELEBRATION: 5:30-

7 pm at Skyzone. Email Lisa Witherspoon (LWITHERPSOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG) or go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.

SUN, MAY 21

• SENIOR RECOGNITION: High school seniors and their families are invited to the 11 am worship service for recognition and blessing, followed by a brief reception.

"PLANNING YOUR FOURTH QUARTER" SERIES

Sessions on envisioning and preparing for the 4th quarter of life. 5 pm, Garden Room. RSVP to Debby Foster at DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336.478.4702.

- APRIL 12 *What Is the 4th Quarter?* Led by FPC congregational nurse Karen Amirehsani. RSVP by noon April 7.
- APRIL 26 *Estate Planning:* Led by Frank Johns, elder law attorney. RSVP by noon April 21.
- MAY 10 Medical Decision Making & Hospice vs Palliative Care: Led by Risa Hanau, LCSW, Clinical & Community Educator for AuthoraCare Collective. RSVP by noon May 5.
- MAY 24 *Living Options as You Age:* Led by Jennifer Harriss with Age Advocate. RSVP by noon May 19.
- JUNE 7 *Planning Your Funeral & Writing Your Obituary:* RSVP by June 2.
- JUNE 21- Unfinished Family Business: RSVP by noon June 16.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 9, IS EASTER SUNDAY

- SUNRISE SERVICE, 7 am in the Old Columbarium.
- TWO IDENTICAL TRADITIONAL SERVICES with brass, organ, and choir. 9 and 11 am in the sanctuary.
- CHILDREN'S
 RESURRECTION
 EGG HUNT,
 Elm Street
 Prayground,10 am.

• ADULT CLASSES, 10 AM

- *Easter Sightings: Walk with Jesus Following the Resurrection*, led by retired PCUSA minister Rev. Kate Huddelson Gillespie. Continues with "Upstairs." Faith Builders class, Myers Loyalty Room.
- Chip Bristol will lead a discussion on *"The Empty Tomb"* in YMBC, Redhead Hall.
- Where Is Jesus Now? Led by Rev. Maria Hanlin in the 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 concludes Easter Sunday. Let's help our Afghan refugee friends Mohammad and Wahzma prepare for their third son in late April. Drop wipes and diapers (sizes Newborn to 6 months) in the wagon in the Welcome Center.

WEDNESDAYS

• FIOOD DRIVE-BY: Drop off cans for Urban Ministry 10 am-2 pm in front of Redhead Hall.

THIRD WEDNESDAYS

MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS 2
 PEOPLE to take a route on the third
 Wednesday of each month, starting
 this Wednesday! Contact Linda Allen,
 336.549.3367 or LKWALLEN70@GMAIL.COM.

SAT, APRIL 15 AND 29

• FPC HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORKDAYS: Open to adults and older youth (18+). Sign-up link at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP Or CONTACT Deborah Conner, 336-478-4709 or DCONNER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

NOW through MAY

• HYGIENE KITS for Church World Service are distributed to disaster victims and people living in poverty. Assemble kits based on the CWS list, available in the Welcome Center, narthex, Tower Room, and Life Center; and return to the Welcome Center by end of May.

MAY 6 -SIGN UP NOW!

• NEIL'S MEALS: We need 150 volunteers (ages 8 & up) for our next food-packing event with the Out of the Garden Project. Join us in Mullin Life Center that morning to pack boxes of food for hungry families in our community. Children under 13 must work alongside a parent. Sign up at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/ SIGNUP!

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!

