



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro

April 28, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*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

Matt Bussell

* Call to Worship

Rachel Fitch

Leader: Come to us, O Lord of Life,

All: And fill this place with your presence!

Leader: We praise your name and rejoice in your love.

All: We stand in utter amazement of who you are!

Leader: Everyone who calls upon you will find fulfillment,

All: They will rejoice forever because you are God!

Leader: Rejoice and give thanks!

All: Halleluiah! Amen!

* Song of Praise: *Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)*

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

[Refrain]:

all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *[Refrain]***

**Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *[Refrain]***

**Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *[Refrain]***

**Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *[Refrain]***

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor
and nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.
Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. 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: *Psalms 22:25-31*

Stu Johnston

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Moment of Godly Play for Children of All Ages

Rachel Fitch

The Word Read: *Acts 8:26-40*

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both

of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed: *Including the "Other"*

Matt Bussell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith

Newton Cowan

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" 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: *For Everyone Born*

**For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.**

**For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair, (Refrain)**

[Refrain]:

**and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!**

**For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.**

**For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live, *[Refrain]***

**For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free, [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

Newton Cowan

* Song of Sending: *Come! Live in the Light!*

**Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called
to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom
of the city of God.**

[Refrain]:

**We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

**Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called
to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence
will be no more. [Refrain]**

**Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers
united in love. [Refrain]**

* Benediction

Matt Bussell

Today's Worship Leaders

Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission
Rachel Fitch, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident
Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Stu Johnston, Lay Reader
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 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.

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




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](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org/signup). Info: Tim Millisor, tmillisor@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4793; or Nancy Courts, nancy_courts@uncg.edu or 336.273.1617.

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/events](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org/give) for more ways to give.



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

FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE – Honor or remember a friend or family member by donating flowers for our Sunday morning Sanctuary worship service. The flowers are accompanied by a note in the bulletin explaining their significance. *Dates available: September 1, 8, and 29.* Contact Carolyn Yow, cwow@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4768.

IN MEMORIAM

Evelyn C. Edwards
April 20, 2024