



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
May 4, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
COMMUNION SUNDAY

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

Gathering Music: Hymn No. 452 – 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;
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

Jill Duffield

* Call to Worship

Turner Pierce

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
Through the resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ,
we have been born anew into a living hope;
we have been given an inheritance that will never pass away!

**All: Blessing and glory
and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and ever!
Amen.**

* Song of Praise: Hymn No. 837 – Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

[Refrain]:

**Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *[Refrain]***

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *[Refrain]***

* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Turner Pierce

**God of glory,
you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,
to reveal your love for all people.**

**We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light.
We turn away from the poor;
we ignore cries for justice;
we do not strive for peace.**

**Forgive us, God. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,
and baptize us once again with your Spirit,
so that, as forgiven and renewed people,
we may reflect the love and life of Jesus Christ
into our 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: 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: *Revelation 5:11-14*

Jane Andrews Brantley

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne
and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and
thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in
the sea and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might
forever and ever!”

And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and
worshiped.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A Moment of Godly Play for Children of All Ages

Phaedra Smith

The Word Read: *Acts 9:1-20*

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord,
went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus,
so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring
them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus,
suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a

The Word Read *continues, over*

voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed

Jill Duffield

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Matt Bussell

Leader: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Great Thanksgiving

Jill Duffield

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, ...
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels
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.**

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, ... Accept this our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our
lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us ... Through Christ, with
Christ, in Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the
Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Leader: And as our Savior taught us we are bold to pray:

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.**

Words of Institution

Matt Bussell

Communion of the People

Music during Communion: Hymn No. 510 – We Gather Here in Jesus' Name

COME, SHARE THE LORD

Prayer after Communion

Jill Duffield

Call for the Offering

Matt Bussell

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. 37 – Let All Things Now Living

**Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us;
pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished,
all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.**

**By law God enforces,
the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!**

* Song of Response: Doxology

**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

Matt Bussell

* Song of Sending: Hymn No. 370 – This Is My Father’s World

**This is my Father’s world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
his hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father’s world.
O, let me ne’er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world.
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
and earth and heaven be one.**

* Benediction

Jill Duffield

Today’s Worship Leaders

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor

Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission

Phaedra Smith, Associate Director of Children & Youth

Turner Pierce, FPC Youth

Jane Andrews Brantley, Lay Reader

Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice! and AV Support

Rejoice! Ensemble

“Open the Eyes of My Heart” Text and music: Paul Baloche

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” Text: Elisha A. Hoffman; Music: Anthony J. Showalter

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” Text: Traditional liturgical text; Music: Paul M. Vasile

“We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name” Text and music: Brian Jeffery Leech

“Let All Things Now Living” Text: Katherine K. Davis; Music: Welsh folk melody

“This Is My Father’s World” Text: Maltbie D. Babcock; Music: Franklin L. Sheppard

** 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.

Rooted and reaching in Christ's love, we seek to serve God as Spirit-led changemakers for good. Our vision is to be a caring, compassionate, and inclusive faith community welcoming those who seek an abundant relationship with Jesus Christ, meaningful worship, authentic connections, lifelong learning, and transformative service. We are continually growing and evolving, even as we remain strongly rooted in the Greensboro community and the Presbyterian tradition.

Come as you are and prepare to be transformed by God's love.



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 near you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency please contact the closest usher.

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.

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.

FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE – Honor or remember a friend or family member by donating flowers for our Sanctuary service. Flowers are accompanied by a bulletin note explaining their significance. *Dates available:* July 13; August 3 & 31; and September 7 & 14. Contact Carolyn Yow, cwow@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4768.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may give by mail, web, app, or text. Scan the QR code (right) to give online. 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. Mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.

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. After worship, elders will take communion to church members in care communities and private homes who are unable to attend services. For information, contact Debby Foster, 336.478.4702 or dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org.

ABOUT THIS MORNING'S ROSEBUDS – The rosebuds in Rejoice! and in the sanctuary celebrate the birth of Reynolds Royce Hansen. Born April 24, 202, Reynolds is the son of Jenny and Kevin Hansen and joins siblings Talton and Emory. The family resides at 8192 McClanahan Drive, Browns Summit, NC 27214.

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/events.

200TH ANNIVERSARY SCOTLAND PILGRIMAGE: We invite you to pray for 28 pilgrims from our church and the Greensboro area who are traveling in Scotland through May 10. This pilgrimage is rooted in reformed tradition and includes Presbyterian history.

