



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro

May 11, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*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. 518 – Lamb of God

**Your only Son, no sin to hide,
but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod,
and to become the Lamb of God.**

[Refrain]:

**O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood,
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**Your gift of love, we crucified;
we laughed and scorned him as he died;
the humble King we named a fraud
and sacrificed the Lamb of God. *[Refrain]***

**I was so lost, I should have died,
but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod,
and to be called a lamb of God. *[Refrain]***

Welcome and Announcements

Jill Duffield

* Call to Worship

Newton Cowan

Leader: Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

People: You are in the midst of us, O Lord; and we are called by your name.

All: Alleluia! Let us worship God!

* Song of Praise: Hymn No. 803 – My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

**My shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed,
beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake his ways,
and leads me, for his mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.**

**When I walk through the shades of death
your presence is my stay;
one word of your supporting breath
drives all my fears away.**

**Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows;
your oil anoints my head.**

**The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;
no more a stranger, or a guest,
but like a child at home.**

* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, we have sinned against you, in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved others as our Savior Christ loves us. We are truly sorry. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 7:9-17*

Margaret Benjamin

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Word Read: *Acts 9:36-43*

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed: *This Is Church*

Jill Duffield



RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

Matt Bussell

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

– Nicene Creed

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

Turner Pierce

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. 792 – There Is a Balm in Gilead

[Refrain]:

**There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again. *[Refrain]***

**Don't ever feel discouraged,
for Jesus is your friend,
and if you lack for knowledge,
he'll not refuse to lend. *[Refrain]***

**If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and say, "He died for all." *[Refrain]***

* 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

Turner Pierce



* Song of Sending: Hymn No. 623 – I've Got Peace Like a River

**I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

**I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.**

**I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

**I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.**

**I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.**

**I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.**

* Benediction

Jill Duffield

Today's Worship Leaders

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor

Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission

Lisa Witherspoon, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Turner Pierce, FPC Youth

Margaret Benjamin, Lay Reader

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

Rejoice! Ensemble

"Lamb of God" Text and music: Twila Paris

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" Text: Isaac Watts; Music: USA folk melody

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

"There Is a Balm in Gilead" Text and music: African American spiritual

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

"I've Got Peace Like a River" Text and music: African American spiritual

** 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.

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.

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 10:30-11:15 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.

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.



INTERESTED IN BEING A LAY READER FOR THE 2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR? If so, please contact Lay Reader Ministry Team Chair Catherine Freeze, catherinefreeze@gmail.com, or Director of Worship Anne Albert, aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org.

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, cyow@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4768.

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

Jayne Oakley Beuchler
May 7, 2025

Mamie Kendrick Snider
May 6, 2025



COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK OF MAY 11 -18 *See our full calendar at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG*

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

WEDNESDAY,
MAY 14: Therapy Dogs, 4:30-6 pm in LeBauer Park. Bring a friend for pup cuddles and a sweet treat!

WEDNESDAY,
MAY 14: *Managing Dementia-Related Behaviors & Communicating Support*, led by Jodi Kolata with Wellspring Solutions. 5-6 pm, Garden Room. RSVP to Debby Foster, DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336-478-4702.

SATURDAY, MAY 17: Mental Health Awareness Walk: 9 am at Country Park. Meet at Shelter #1 near the carousel.

SUNDAY, MAY 18: *Mental Health Month Focus* 3-part series concludes in the Garden Room, 10 am.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21: Family Art Class: All ages. 5-6 pm, Redhead Hall.

SPRING CLEAN YOUR CONTACT INFO: Members from the Discipleship Committee can help you check and update your info in Fellowship One, our member database. *Find them in the Welcome Center during Church School today, and again next Sunday, May 18.* Or to do it on your own, go to the home page and click on "Members" in the top bar.

MONDAY, MAY 12

- **BOOK CLUB:** *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni, facilitated by Tamara Slaughter. Garden Room, 10:30 am.
- **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON** with speaker Caroline Phillips, for those who registered, noon in MLC.

TUESDAY, MAY 13

- **BIBLE & BISCUITS** *will not be held this week*, but we'll see you May 27 in the Solarium, 7:45-8:30 am
- **BOOK CLUB:** *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni, facilitated by Tamara Slaughter. Garden Room, 1:30 pm.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

- **RSVP DEADLINE** for Fork & Faith monthly luncheon for women, happening May 21. Contact Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM or call 336-854-2663.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

JUNE 4

1:30 am - 6 pm
Life Center

Donors will receive a \$15 Amazon.com gift card by email and be entered for a chance to win a \$7,000 gift card. *Use the QR code to make your appointment. Walk-ins also welcome!*



OFFERING OF LETTERS



HUNGER ACTION: Look for tables around campus where you can write letters to Congress calling for passage of the Farm Bill, which supports farmers and hunger programs. More resources at BREAD.ORG/OFFERING-LETTERS. *Leave your letters at the church by Sunday, May 25.*



ROOTED & REACHING IN CHRIST'S LOVE

MEANINGFUL WORSHIP

NEXT SUNDAY IS SENIOR SUNDAY. High school seniors & families have breakfast at 10 am and seniors will be recognized during the 11 am worship service.

THE SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE begins June 15, one service in the sanctuary at 10 am with various musical styles; and will continue through August 17.

INTERESTED IN BEING A LAY READER FOR THE 2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR? If so, please contact Lay Reader Ministry Team Chair Catherine Freeze, catherinefreeze@gmail.com, or Director of Worship Anne Albert, aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org.

TRANSFORMATIVE SERVICE

DONATE FABRIC & YARN: The Community Service Group handcrafts blankets, hats, playmats, lap robes and more, which are distributed to nonprofits in our community. In 2024 they donated 2,428 items! Support their work by donating fabric and yarn. *Drop off in the red wagons around campus, and be sure to mark your donations "Community Service."*

BLACK MOUNTAIN RECOVERY TEAM: Western North Carolina will spend years recovering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. We will assist in recovery efforts August 10-15. *Interested in being a part of a mission team to Black Mountain?* Use the QR code to register by May 21.



LIFELONG LEARNING

"TO BE GIVEN TO MY NEXT OF KIN" – Next Sunday, Rev. Doug McLeroy continues a personal account drawn from his new book, *On My Believing Days: A Story of Life and Faith* (available in the Welcome Center, \$20). Hosted by YMBC & Agape classes in Redhead Hall, 10 am. Series concludes May 25 with "The Care of Souls."

BODY, MIND & SOUL: Mental Health Month series concludes, 10 am next Sunday in the Garden Room with "Spiritual Practices for Mental Health."

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMPS

Applications are open for **NEXT YEAR'S YOUTH COUNCIL.** The council meets 4-5 times during the year to offer feedback and ideas for our youth programming. Interested students can access the form using the QR code. The deadline is June 20.



MAY 19 IS MAHJONG MONDAY for FPC women who play Mahjong, 9:30-11:30 am, Garden Room. Sign up online (FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP), and be sure to bring your NMJL card. Info: Sheri Evans, SMEVANSNC@GMAIL.COM.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Some spots still open! For ages 3 (by August 31) thru rising second-graders, August 4-7.



KDC CAMP: Bible study, games & off-campus activities for rising 3rd-5th graders, August 4-7.

WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS: For ages 12 months through 6 years, choose days or weeks.

▶ REGISTRATION NOW OPEN at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP

Sign up for the activities above and more, including summer children's camps.