



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro  
September 17, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
BAPTISM SUNDAY

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

Gathering Music: *Your Grace Is Enough*

**Great is Your faithfulness, o God  
You wrestle with the sinner's heart  
You lead us by still waters and to mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart**

*[Chorus]:*

**So remember Your people  
Remember Your children  
Remember Your promise, o God  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me**

Matt Maher

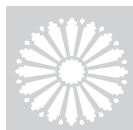
**Great is Your love and justice, God  
You use the weak to lead the strong  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation  
And all Your people sing along**

*[Chorus]*

**Yeah, Your grace is enough  
Heaven reaching down to us  
Your grace is enough for me  
God, I see Your grace is enough  
I'm covered in Your love  
Your grace is enough for me, for me**

Welcome and Announcements

Jill Duffield



\* Call to Worship

Matt Bussell

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.

**All: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits –**

Leader: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**All: who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

Leader: who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

– Psalm 103:1-5

\* Song of Praise: *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

Chris Tomlin

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed**

*[Chorus]:*

**My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns**

**Unending love  
Amazing grace**

**The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures**

*[Chorus]*

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below  
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine  
You are forever mine**

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

\* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

**O God, gladly we live and move and have our being in you. Yet always in the midst of your salvation story, we see sin's shadow and feel death's darkness: Around us in the earth, sea and sky, the abuse of creation; Beside us in the suffering, the oppressed and the hurting, the betrayal of one another; and often, deep within us, a striving against your Spirit. Trinity of love, forgive us that we may forgive one another, heal us that we may be people of healing, and renew us that we also may be makers of peace. 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: *Genesis 50:15-21*

Tim Cook

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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 18:21-35*

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Word Proclaimed: *Meanness or Mercy?*

Jill Duffield



## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\* Affirmation of Faith

Newton Cowan

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*– Traditional Apostles' 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

*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: *Thy Mercy My God*

Sandra McCracken

**Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,  
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue;  
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.**

**Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;  
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;  
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,  
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.**

**Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,  
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.**

**Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,  
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;  
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.  
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.**

– *John Stocker*

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: *Your Grace Is Enough*

Keith and Kristen Gettys

**Great is Your faithfulness, o God  
You wrestle with the sinner's heart  
You lead us by still waters and to mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart**

*[Chorus]:*

**So remember Your people  
Remember Your children  
Remember Your promise, o God  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me**

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*[Chorus]*

**Yeah, Your grace is enough  
Heaven reaching down to us  
Your grace is enough for me**

**God, I see Your grace is enough  
I'm covered in Your love  
Your grace is enough for me, for me**

\* Benediction

Jill Duffield

### **Today's Worship Leaders**

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor

Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission

Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Lisa Witherspoon, Director of Children's Ministry and Interim Youth Director

Tim Cook, Lay Reader

Rejoice! Ensemble

*\* Let us rise in body or spirit*

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**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.



**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.

**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](http://fpcgreensboro.org/connect) • Visit [fpcgreensboro.org/events](http://fpcgreensboro.org/events)

**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.

**NOMINATE SOMEONE TO BE A CHURCH OFFICER**

FPC members influence the direction of our church through nominating and electing our leaders. The Nominating Committee prepares a slate of elders and a trustee for next spring’s election, and we ask you to suggest members whose leadership will strengthen the church and its mission for Jesus Christ. The Session has approved a plan to gradually transition to 18 active elders. This is the first year in the transition, and the slate will have six elders and one trustee. You can find nomination forms at Sanctuary and Life Center entrances; or email Debby Foster ([dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org)) with nominations or questions.

**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](http://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](http://fpcgreensboro.org/give) for more ways to give.



**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered today during the 11 a.m. Sanctuary service to Tucker Sanford Houston, son of Richard and Corinna Houston.

**FALL AND FLU & COVID SEASON IS HERE!** Let’s take care of each other by staying home or masking and maintaining a safe distance if we have any symptoms. Many thanks!

**Rooted and reaching in Christ’s love, we will 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  
 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.





# COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 • FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

TODAY

- ... is the deadline for **nominations for the next class of elders** (and a trustee). Send suggestions to Debby Foster at [DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG). *Nomination forms are also located at sanctuary and Life Center entrances.*
- Tricia Shaw will be around campus with a clipboard to take your signups for Saturday's **Taste of Kenya fund-raiser for Sister2Sister** (*more below*). She will be in the back of the Life Center after Rejoice! and in the Welcome Center before and after the sanctuary service. Cash or checks today, and she will have the code for online signup and credit card payment. You can also call Yolanda Baxter at 336.478.4722 on Monday to pay with card. TAKEOUT AVAILABLE!

For regular weekly events, see the calendar at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG)

## WEDNESDAY

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB**, 7:15-7:45 am, at Chick-fil-A on Pisgah Church Rd.
- **FORK & FAITH** monthly women's lunch, noon in the Life Center for pre-registered guests.
- **FALL WALKING GROUP**: Join us for prayer



and a 2.5 walk around the neighborhood! 5:30-6:30 pm. Meet on the sanctuary steps with a water bottle, and wear comfortable clothes. Limited to 10 people – sign up with

Yolanda Baxter, [YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

## THURSDAY

- **HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB**. Breakfast and prayer, 3rd Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 am, at Panera on Lawndale. Also October 19, November 16.
- **MEDICARE SIMPLIFIED AND OPEN ENROLLMENT**: Bob Boyd will discuss the different plans; open enrollment begins in November. Feel free to bring your lunch. Noon to 1 pm, Garden Room. RSVP by Monday to Debby Foster at [DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG) or 336.478.4702.

## SATURDAY

- **A TASTE OF KENYA**, 5:30-7 pm in the Life Center. Fundraiser for Sister2Sister International Outreach

A Taste of  
**KENYA**



Ministry's children's home and feeding

program in Kenya. Founder Purity Ruchugo will bring Kenyan cuisine to Mullin Life Center! \$30 for ages 13+ and \$7 for younger. **Get tickets today and Monday** – at the Welcome Center front desk, at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG)/SIGNUP, or use the QR code (right).



Fall and flu & COVID season is here! **Let's take care of each other** by staying home or masking and maintaining a safe distance if we have any symptoms. *Many thanks!*

**SIGN UP NOW:  
FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27:** A handful of spots have opened up for the Fort Liberty trip. The trip, sponsored by the Paisley Travelers and Veterans Fellowship Group, costs \$60. Sign up and pay online.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7:** *Neil's Meals*, 8:30-11 am, Life Center. **Deadline for volunteer registration is Friday, October 6.** This event works with Out of the Garden to pack fresh food for local individuals and families. Anyone ages 8 and up can volunteer; children under 13 must work with a parent.



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29:** *Camp Weaver Day*, 10 am-3 pm. Our entire FPC family will gather for Sunday school, worship, lunch, and fun at Camp Weaver YMCA (4924 Tapawingo Trail, 17 minutes from the church!) Come for the whole day or any part of it! **If you plan to eat lunch, please register by October 12** so we can give Camp Weaver a headcount!

**NEXT SUNDAY**



**SIGN OUR CARD FOR RIVER**

**LANDING:** Stop by the Life Center or Welcome Center and sign the giant card for our members and other residents at the River Landing retirement community. Just want to let them know we are thinking about them! This also counts for your *Tour de Pres* map: Do 6 activities to be entered in a drawing for a pizza dinner with the pastors!

**YOUTH GROUP:** 2nd & 4th Sundays, 5-6:30 pm in the Life Center.

**HIGH SCHOOL CONNECTIONS,** dinner & discussion, 2nd & 4th Sundays, 6-7:30 pm in member homes. We'll connect Scripture to times in our lives. Info: Rachel Fitch, [RFITCH@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:RFITCH@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

**POP-UP PRAYER**

This fall we will reach out to the community in Christ's love once a month, somewhere people are gathered, and offer to pray *for* and *with* anyone interested. We start **Thursday, September 28, 10:30 am-1:30 pm**, at Pink in the Park in Center City Park. Interested in helping? We need people to help provide cookies. Contact Ann Alexander, [AALEXANDER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:AALEXANDER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

**THERE'S A LOT HAPPENING!**

*Go to*

[FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/EVENTS](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/EVENTS) &

[FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP)

*for more*

**YOUNG ADULT &  
YOUNG FAMILY  
SIMPLE SUPPERS**



We'll fellowship around a simple meal and reflect on faith and life. *Wednesdays, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, & Nov. 29, 5:30-6:30 pm* in the Solarium. Let us know if you will need childcare.

**NEW!**

**SOUP & BREAD MINISTRY**

Love to make a tasty soup? Is bread baking your thing? Spread the love! Make soup and bread for our pastoral staff to share with church members who need a little tender loving care from their church family. If you'd like to help stock the freezer from time to time, contact Tamara Slaughter (336-456-8022 or [TAMARA@ME.COM](mailto:TAMARA@ME.COM)). We'll provide recipes & containers for soup; bread bakers can freestyle (*please include ingredient list*).

**NEW!**