

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 29, 2023

11:00 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

VOLUNTARY: Toccata in F Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Jill Duffield

MINUTE FOR MISSION..... Joey Fields

* CALL TO WORSHIP Newton Cowan

Leader: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**All: I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**

Leader: The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.

**All: And those who know your name put their trust in you,
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.**

– selected verses from Psalm 9

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 643 – Now Thank We All Our GodNUN DANKET ALLE GOTT



643 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in high - est heav - en,

who won - drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 to Fa - ther and to Son and Spir - it now be giv - en:

who, from our moth - ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom heaven and earth a - dore,

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be ev - er - more.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore us to the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. 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: For the Beauty of the EarthLAUDA ANIMA



For each per-fect gift of Thine, To our race so free-ly given,



Grac - es hu - man and div - ine, Flowers of earth and buds of Heaven.



Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Micah 6:1-8* Catherine Faircloth

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT OF GODLY PLAY FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Lisa Witherspoon

ANTHEM: What Does the Lord Require Erik Routley (1917-1982)

Chancel Choir

What does the Lord require for praise and offering?

What sacrifice, desire, or tribute bid you bring?

Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with your God.

Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice know?

Will God your pleading hear, while crime and cruelty grow?

Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with your God.

Still down the ages ring the prophet's stern commands.

To merchant, worker, king he brings God's high demands.

Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with your God.

How shall our life fulfill God's law so hard and high?

Lest Christ endue our will with grace to fortify.

Then justly, in mercy we'll humbly walk with God.

- Albert Bayly (1901-1984)

THE WORD READ: *Matthew 5:1-12*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: *Oblivious to Blessings*.....Jill Duffield

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit*.....NETTLETON



Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it; all God's
Bless - ed, too, are those who hun - ger and who
Those who share the peace God gives them will find



realm is sure - ly theirs. Those in mourn - ing will find
thirst for what is right. They will not be prone to
bless - ings as God's own. Those op - pressed for faith - ful



com - fort as an an - swer to their prayers. Meek ones
 wan - der, for your will is their de - light. Those who
 liv - ing will call heav - en's king - dom Home. When the —



whom this world des - pis - es will in - her - it ev - ery -
 show God's care and mer - cy will re - ceive that mer - cy
 world's ways seem dis - tress - ing and we feel life's pain - ful



thing. God, your king - dom still sur - pris - es; may we
 too. God, in Christ you show us clear - ly of the
 sting, God, re - mind us of the bless - ings of the



seek the reign you bring.
 joy we have in you.
 won - drous life you bring.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Deborah Conner

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

— *Philippians 2:5-11*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

concluding with 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 by giving online at fpcgreensboro.org/give
or by mailing your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.*

OFFERTORY: The Light of the WorldAndrew Carter (b. 1939)
Chancel Choir

Behold, I stand at the door and knock:
If any man hear my voice, and open the door,
I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.
Jesus said, "I am the light of the world:
he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."
Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd: that giveth his life for the sheep."
Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."
Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and life."
Behold, I stand at the door and knock: I will come to you.

- from Revelation 3:20; John 8:12, 10:11, 14 :6, 1 :25

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise
God, all crea - tures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Praise
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION..... Deborah Conner

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONJill Duffield

RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 731 – Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm.....REPTON

VOLUNTARY: Fugue from *Sonata No. 3*Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)
John Alexander, organ



TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

- Jill Duffield, *Senior Pastor*
- Newton Cowan, *Transitional Director for Pastoral Care*
- Deborah Conner, *Interim Associate Pastor for Outreach*
- Lisa Witherspoon, *Director of Children’s Ministry*
- Catherine Faircloth, *Lay Reader*
- De’Nique Byron and Charlotte Freeze, *Acolytes*
- John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*
- Robert Wells, *Director of Chancel Choir*
Chancel Choir

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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731

Give Thanks for Those
Whose Faith Is Firm

Capo 1: (D) E^b (A) B^b (Bm) Cm (G) A^b

1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -
 2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere
 3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling
 4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -

(D) E^b (A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (Em) Fm (A) B^b (F#m) Gm

round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so
 mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the
 pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an
 live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their

(Bm) Cm (G) A^b (Em) Fm (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b

while they live and when they die how force - ful -
 true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on
 in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -
 hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that

(A7) B^b7 (B) C (Em) Fm (G) A^b (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b

ly they speak: the strong, who once were weak!
 toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.
 cerns they own: God's love through them is known.
 we may say we share their pil - grim way.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The first three stanzas of this text are organized around the three great virtues—faith, hope, and love—mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:13. These have indeed been the marks of the faithful people of God always and everywhere, and the final stanza sums up our gratitude for them.

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

THE LITURGICAL COLOR GREEN seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors’ stoles signifies the season of “Ordinary Time.” This season is a time of spiritual growth when the scriptures about Jesus’ preaching, teaching and healings are read and proclaimed.

ABOUT TODAY’S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Marion Charles “Chuck” Scott by Ashley Staton Scott and his family.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may also give by web, app, or text. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text to download the SecureGive app (Apple  or Android ) and for instructions for giving via text. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give for more ways to give.

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.

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.

COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK BEGINNING JANUARY 29, 2023 • FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

47% OF THE STUDENTS AT UNCG EXPERIENCE FOOD INSECURITY. The Outreach Committee decided that we could help through the university SAFE fund (Student Assistance Funds for Emergencies) which provides one-time assistance to matriculating students who experience short-term financial emergencies. These include medical care, loss of shelter, travel costs for family situations, and food insecurity. This immediate support provides the “safety net” students need to keep them on the path to graduation. Because of the generosity of the members of FPC to the Neil Dunnivant Hunger Ministries, our gift of \$40,000 will go toward food insecurity.



Jill and Deborah at UNCG's main dining area with UNCG folks Dr. Brett Carter, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Dr. Cathy Akens, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; and Jeff Sapp, Executive Director of Development in the College of Arts and Sciences.

LATER TODAY: YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT at Backpack Beginnings, 2-4 pm, for grades 8-12. Drop-off and pick-up at 3711 Alliance Dr, Greensboro.
Info: Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.



MON, JANUARY 30

- **LECTIO DIVINA:** Led by Rev. David Partington on Zoom at 11 am. Contact David (DCPSBW197@GMAIL.COM) for link.
- **THE EARTH CARE TEAM** invites anyone interested in caring for God's creation to join us at our meeting, 4 pm in the Garden Room.

TUES, JANUARY 31

- **PEACEHAVEN FARM BIBLE STUDY** holds its first gathering of the year, 6:30 pm on Zoom. Scripture reading, discussion, song, laughter, and prayer. Get the link from Yolanda Baxter, YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

WED, FEBRUARY 1

- **MEN'S LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY:** 7:30 am on Zoom. Info: Jack Harrington, JACKHARRINGTON44@GMAIL.COM.
- **WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WOMEN:** 8:45 am in Main 125. Contact Betsy Harrington, BETSYHARRINGTON@TRIAD.RR.COM.
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP:** 10-11:45 am, Garden Room. Handcraft blankets & more for nonprofits. Contact B.J. Williams, 336-288-8601, or Hannah Britt, 336-288-9289.
- **FOOD DRIVE-BY:** Drop off cans for Urban Ministry 10 am-2 pm in front of Redhead Hall. Greeters needed – sign up at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.

FRI, FEBRUARY 3

- **RSVP DEADLINE** for February 8 Fork & Faith luncheon. Contact Martha Holt at MARTHA.HOLT@ATT.NET or 336-908-7745.

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- **COFFEE & DOUGHNUT**

FELLOWSHIP: 8:30 am in Mullin Life Center, before the Rejoice! service at 9.

- **TWO WORSHIP SERVICES:** 9 am Rejoice! in Mullin Life Center and 11 am Sanctuary, with livestream.

- **MILESTONES IN THE FAITH** for children, 10 am. Info: Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

- **YOUTH CLASSES, 10 AM**
 - Confirmation: *Will you devote yourself to the church's teachings?* Donna Chase leads Confirmands in Memorial 304; Newton Cowan leads parents in Memorial 300.
 - Middle & high school, Memorial 303.

- **ADULT CLASSES, 10 AM**



- *Who Is Jesus, Through Scripture & Art: From Raphael to Rembrandt*; New class begins, led by Jerry Beavers. Sundays through February 19, Garden Room.

- *Jeremiah: A Guide for Living in Turbulent Times*. Sandie Gravett continues a look at the prophet's 40-year career, to find hope in difficult days. Redhead Hall, through March.
- *Letter to the Ephesians* in Seekers, M125.

- **LATER IN THE DAY**

- **KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB** Third- through fifth-graders are invited to join! With Timothy 4:12 as our guide, we'll have Bible study, service, and fun!! 3-4:30 pm, Corl 306.
- **YOUTH GROUP & DINNER** MLC, 6-7:30 pm.

February Highlights

FORK & FAITH luncheon for women. February 8, noon, Life Center. \$10. Baked potato bar with salad & dessert. Stay after to assemble Valentine's goodies for church staff!



MIDDLEFEST CHORAL FESTIVAL finale concert, February 11, 4 pm.

UNCG UNIVERSITY CHOIRS CONCERT, February 19, at 5 pm.



ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22: Imposition of Ashes service at 6 pm, also at Preschool Chapel, 9:30 am and open to all.

BEING A WITNESS: PCUSA takes the call of Christ to Washington and the United Nations. Hear from Public Witness Director Jimmie Hawkins and our member Victoria Alexander, a Young Adult Volunteer at the U.N. February 26, 10 am, Garden Room.

SOUPERBOWL OF CARING, February 12 after 11 am service in Mullin Life Center. Come enjoy fellowship and a warm bowl of soup while supporting FPC youth! Donations will be accepted and all proceeds will go to FPC youth missions. If you would like to provide a pot of soup, contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS 101, presentation, panel Q & A. February 19, 4-5:30 pm, Garden Room.



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: We currently are \$128,430 away from fully funding our ministries for 2023. A little more than half of that amount we expect to receive from members who usually pledge but have not yet sent in their pledges. The deficit 2023 budget balance, \$68,088, we pray will come from members who have not pledged in the past, but will be moved to commit to offering something in support of our ministries.