

# FIRSTPRESBYTERIANCHURCH

MARCH 26, 2023 11:00 a.m.

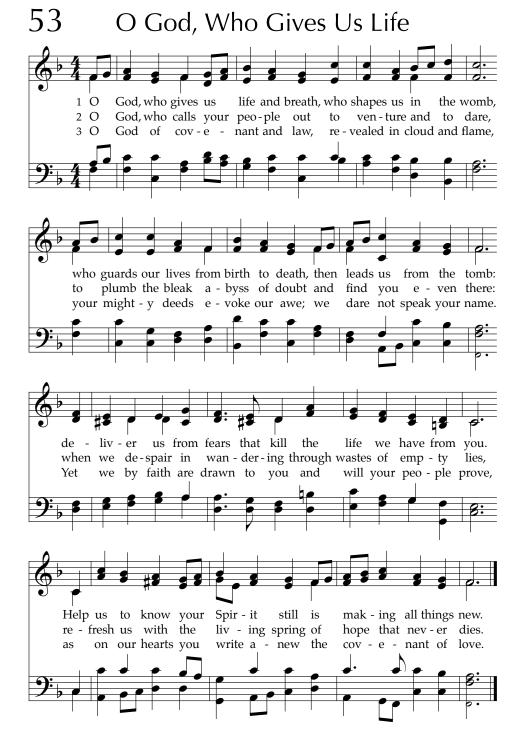
# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

# WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

Voluntary: Au	s tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir
WELCOME AND A	ANNOUNCEMENTS
* Call to Wors	SHIPDeborah Conner
Leader: <b>People:</b>	I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come?  My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
Leader: <b>People:</b>	The Lord will keep you from all evil, he will keep your life.
All:	The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on forevermore.  - Psalm 121 adapted
* Processional	Hymn: No. 53 – O God, Who Gives Us Life





Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31–34).

## \* CALL TO CONFESSION and PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our God, whose Son is the light of the world, in his penetrating light we acknowledge our darkness; in his constant grace, our careless love; in his generous giving, our sordid grasping; in his equal justice, our dire prejudice; in his fortitude, our fearful failure; in his inclusive love, our deep divisions; in his pure sacrifice, our soiling sins. But in his Cross is our forgiveness, and in his resurrection our enduring hope. The pardon and the promise now we claim, in penitence and faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Horton Davies

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

Out of the deep have I called to you, O Lord Lord, hear my voice. let vour ears consider well the voice of my supplication. If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss O Lord, who could stand? For there is forgiveness with you therefore you shall be feared. I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him in his word is my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchman for the morning, more than the watchman for the morning. O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy; With him is plenteous redemption, And he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

# WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Word Read: Ezekiel 37:1-14..... Emma Ballenger

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.

## 

De profundis clamavi ad te, Domine; Domine, exaudi vocem meam. Fiant aures tuæ intendentes in vocem deprecationis meæ. Si iniquitates observaveris, Domine, Domine, quis sustinebit? Quia apud te propitiatio est; et propter legem tuam sustinui te, Domine. Sustinuit anima mea in verbo ejus. Speravit [anima mea in Domino A custodia matutina usque ad noctem, speret Israël in Domino. Quia apud Dominum misericordia, et copiosa apud eum redemptio. Et ipse redimet Israël ex omnibus iniquitatibus ejus.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritu Sancto,

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper

Et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Out of the deep, have I called unto thee, O Lord, O Lord God, hear Thou my voice.
Oh, let thine ears consider well,
The voice of my complaint.
If Thou shouldst markest all inquities
Lord, Lord, who then shall stand?
There is mercy with Thee;
And therefore shalt Thou be feared, O Lord.
I look for the Lord and my soul waiteth for Him;
For in the word of the Lord put I all my trust.
From the early dawn until evening
Let Israel have hope in God.

Trust in the Lord our God and His grace,
For with Him there is plenteous redemption.

He shall redeem Israel

Yes, Israel shall be redeemed from all sin.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be

World without end. Amen.



## THE WORD READ: John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

THE WORD READ continues, over

The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.



# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* Hymn of Response: No. 250 – In the Bulb, There Is a Flower ...... $\operatorname{PROMISE}$ 

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives. teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

- from A Brief Statement of Faith



# In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

# Hymn of Promise



- 1 In the bulb there is a flow-er; in the seed, an ap-ple tree;
- 2 There's a song in ev-ery si-lence, seek-ing word and mel-o-dy;
- 3 In our end is our be-gin-ning; in our time, in-fin-i-ty;



in co-coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but - ter-flies will soon be free! there's a dawn in ev-ery dark-ness, bring-ing hope to you and me. in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win-ter there's a spring that waits to be, From the past will come the fu-ture; what it holds, a mys-ter-y, In our death, a res-ur-rec-tion; at the last, a vic-to-ry,



un - re-vealed un - til its sea - son, some-thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning." Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

## 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 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: Wondrous Love ...... arranged by Alice Parker & Robert Shaw  $Chancel\ Choir$ 

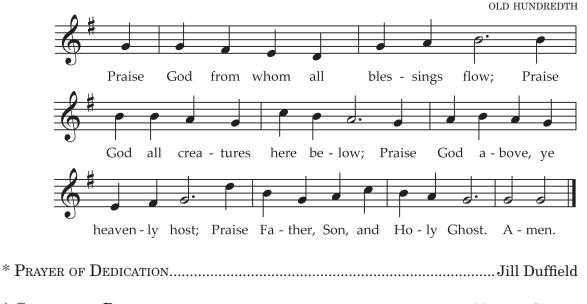
What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul. What wondrous love is this, That caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, O my soul, When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown For my soul, for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I am While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free
I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing and joyful be,
And thro' eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on.

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



# Today's Worship Leaders

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor
Deborah Conner, Interim Associate Pastor for Outreach
Newton Cowan, Transitional Director for Pastoral Care
Donna Chase, Director of Christian Formation
Emma Ballenger, Lay Reader
Mady Ballenger 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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This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.



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.

**COVID GUIDELINES** – Masks are optional on our campus. Updates are posted at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/TOGETHER.

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

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.

#### FIND FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA -

THE LITURGICAL COLOR *PURPLE* seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors' stoles signifies the season of Lent

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Frank M. Lee and in loving memory of his mother, Dawson M. Lee, and brother, James G. Lee, Ill.

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: April 30; July 23 and 30; November 19; and December 31.* Contact Carolyn Yow, 336-478-4768 or cyow@fpcgreensboro.org.

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 to download the



FellowshipOne Giving mobile app (Apple of Android of 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 for more ways to give.

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

ATFIRSTPRESBYTERIAN

## WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 26, 2023 • FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

LATER TODAY YOCO AT GUILFORD PARK: 6-7:30 pm. Youth from six churches in Greensboro will gather at Guilford Park Presbyterian, 2100 Fernwood Drive. Info: Donna Chase, DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK**

For regular weekly events, please refer to the calendar at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

## WED, MARCH 29

- VETERANS LUNCHEON, noon in Redhead Hall.
   All veterans and spouses of veterans are invited, bring a side dish if you can. Marty Smith will present a program on Quilts of Valor.
- CENTERING PRAYER GROUP: Noon on Zoom, led by Deborah Conner. RSVP: YBAXTER@ FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

## THU, MARCH 30

- 10 WARNING SIGNS OF ALZHEIMER'S: 1-3 pm in Redhead Hall. Learn about the difference between normal aging and Alzheimer's, common warning signs, the importance of early detection and benefits of diagnosis, and expectations for the diagnostic process. Led by Dr. Cheryl Greenberg from the Alzheimer's Association.
- LENTEN YOGA: 4:30 pm, Virginia Gilmer Room, led by Rev. Virginia Lee Wood. RSVP: YBAXTER@ FPCGREENSBORO.ORG
- MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE: 5:30 pm in the Life Center with Hot Dish & Hope guests.

# **HOLY WEEK**

begins next Sunday

### **APRIL 2: PALM SUNDAY.**

- Children sing, 9 & 11 am.
- Marcel Dupré's Stations of the Cross, 5 pm.

**APRIL 6:** *NEW* MAUNDY THURSDAY service, Life Center, 6 pm.

#### **APRIL 7:** TENEBRAE SERVICE.

7:30 pm, sanctuary. *Child care with reservation*: LWITHERSPOON@ FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

APRIL 8: EASTER VIGIL. 7:30 pm. Memorial Columbarium & sanctuary. *Child care with reservation*: LWITHERSPOON@ FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

#### **APRIL 9: EASTER SUNDAY.**

- Sunrise service, 7 am, Memorial Columbarium.
- Bring a flower for the cross.
- Sanctuary services, 9 & 11.
- Children's Resurrection Egg Hunt, 10 am.

**Exciting news!** Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, April 16, to hear a report from the Associate Pastor for Outreach Nominating Committee. The meeting will begin at 5 pm on Zoom. The link will be emailed that afternoon. Please plan to participate!

# **NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 2, IS PALM SUNDAY**

- COFFEE & DOUGHNUT FELLOWSHIP: 8:30 am in Mullin Life Center, before the Rejoice! service.
- TWO WORSHIP SERVICES: 9 am Rejoice! in Mullin Life Center and 11 am Sanctuary, with livestream.
- YOUTH, PLUS PRESCHOOL -ELEMENTARY CHILDREN (with parents) are invited to the back of the Life Center at 10 am. We will travel through the church visiting Holy Week stations, ending on the Prayground for fellowship & refreshments.

### • ADULT CLASSES, 10 AM

- NEW STUDY BEGINS Easter Sightings: Walk with Jesus Following the Resurrection, led by Rev. Kate Huddelson Gillespie, a retired PCUSA minister. Begins with "Darkness at Noon on a Hill." Faith Builders class, Myers Loyalty Room.
- NEW STUDY BEGINS Sandie Gravett on 2
   Corinthians, "For whenever I am weak, then I am strong." Hosted by YMBC, Redhead Hall.
- Rev. Newton Cowan leads *"A Walk Through Holy Week."* Agape Class, Garden Room.
- Study and discuss the "Being a Witness" devotional with the Commitment Class, Blair Hagan Room.
- Seekers in M125.

#### LATER IN THE DAY

- Kids Disciple Club: Third- through fifthgraders meet for Bible study, service, and fun! 3-4:30 pm, Corl 306.
- Marcel Dupré's Stations of the Cross, 5 pm in the sanctuary. John Alexander, organ; Jill Duffield, narrator.
- Youth group, 6-7:30 pm. Dinner and creative! Self-guided Lenten prayer stations and a labyrinth walk.

WIPE & DIAPER SHOWER: Let's help our Afghan refugee friends prepare for their new baby! A hearty supply of wipes and diapers (sizes Newborn to 6 months) would be a tremendous blessing for Mohammad and Wahzma, welcoming their third son in late April. Through Easter Sunday, you can drop these items in the wagon in the Welcome Center.



I am a regular at the Men's Food & Fellowship gatherings. Men coming together for breakfast and sharing stories about life's work and challenges through a faith lens creates community and belonging. We are developing a place to strengthen spiritual bonds and encourage fellowship. These conversations,

where we are sharing each other's beliefs and perspectives, serve as a reminder of the importance of faith in our daily lives and provide a space for spiritual growth and friendship.



Sam Turner, FPC Flder

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds." – Hebrews 10:24

**Our next Men's Food & Fellowship is April 22:** Transformation! Join us for breakfast and inspiring stories from our member, Bill Pinckney and Anthony Bass from StepUp Greensboro. 8:30–10 am in the Life Center. RSVP by April 20 to Debby Foster (DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336–478–4702).