

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 11, 2025

11:00 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.
Please silence your cell phone as worship begins.*

VOLUNTARY: Adagio from *Symphony No. 5*..... Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Jill Duffield

* CALL TO WORSHIPNewton 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!**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 39 – Great Is Thy Faithfulness..... (SEE PAGES 2 AND 3)

* 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.

39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
날 마 다 자 비 를 배 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

* 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 ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

GELOBT SIE GOTT

Three staves of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with". The second staff contains: "one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:". The third staff contains: "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!".

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Revelation 7:9-17* Rebecca Sheaff

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.”

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

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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *Agnus Dei* from *Requiem* John Rutter (b. 1945)

Chancel Choir

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of
the world, grant them rest.

Man that is born of a woman
hath but a short time to live,
and is full of misery.

He cometh up, and is cut down like a flower;
he fleeth as it were a shadow.

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of
the world, grant them rest.

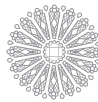
In the midst of life, we are in death;
of whom may we seek for succour?

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem sempiternam.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of
the world, grant them rest forever.

I am the resurrection and the life,
saith the Lord;
He that believeth in me, though he were dead,
yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me
shall never die.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: *This Is Church* Jill Duffield



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 324 – For All the Faithful Women NYLAND

324 For All the Faithful Women

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C)
 Eb Cm7 Ab Bb Eb

1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in
 2 We praise your name for Mir - iam, who sang tri -
 3 We sing of bus - y Mar - tha, who toiled with
 4 Lord, hear our praise of Dor - cas, who served the

(G) (C) (Am7) (Dm) (G)
 Bb Eb Cm7 Fm Bb

days of old, to you shall thanks be giv - en; to
 um - phant - ly while Pha - raoh's vaunt - ed ar - my lay
 pot and pan while Mar - y sat in si - lence to
 sick and poor. Her hands were cups of kind - ness, her

(C) (G7) (C) (Am)
 Eb Bb7 Eb Cm

all, their sto - ry told. They served with strength and
 drowned be - neath the sea; for Ruth, who left her
 hear the word a - gain. We praise the oth - er
 heart an o - pen door. O God, for saints and

(D) (G) (F) (G) (C)
 F Bb Ab Bb Eb

glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave. To you their
 home - land and ven - tured forth in faith, who pledged to
 Mar - y, who has - tened to the tomb and found her
 ser - vants, our fer - vent prayer we raise, that, faith - ful

(Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 Cm7 Ab Bb Eb Fm Bb Eb

lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your power to save.
 serve and wor - ship Na - o - mi's God till death.
 Lord a - ris - en, dis - pel - ling doubt and gloom.
 in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Created to honor the tenth anniversary of the first ordination of a woman in the Lutheran Church in America, this text celebrates representative women of the Bible: Miriam and Ruth from Hebrew Scripture, Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene from the gospels, and Dorcas from Acts.

*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

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..... 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: The Lord Is My Shepherd from *Requiem*John Rutter (b. 1945)
Chancel Choir
Susan Fancher, soprano saxophone

The Lord is My Shepherd;
 therefore can I lack nothing.
 He shall feed me in a green pasture,
 and lead me forth beside
 the waters of comfort.
 He shall convert my soul,
 and bring me forth
 in the paths of righteousness,
 for his Name's sake.
 Yea, though I walk
 through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,
 for thou art with me;
 thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
 Thou shalt prepare a table before me
 against them that trouble me;
 thou hast anointed my head with oil,
 and my cup shall be full.
 But thy loving-kindness and mercy
 shall follow me all the days of my life;
 and I will dwell in the house of the
 Lord for ever.

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

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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.....Turner Pierce

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONJill Duffield

* RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 65 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

VOLUNTARY: CWM RHONDDA.....Paul Manz (1919-2009)
John Alexander, organ

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*
Rebecca Sheaff, *Lay Reader*
Charlotte Freeze, *Acolyte*
John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*
Rebecca Pugh, *Assistant Organist*
Susan Fancher, *Soprano Saxophonist*
Chancel Choir

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Text: Thomas O. Chisholm; Music: William Marion Runyan.

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!” Text: Cyril A. Alington; Music: Melchior Vulpius.

“For All the Faithful Women” Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.; Music: Finnish folk melody.

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

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” Text: William Williams; Music: John Hughes.

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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2024-2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS: *Adult Formation:* Margee Jones, John Sullivan. *Youth Formation:* Leigh Abraham, Layne King. *Children's Formation:* Sally King, Lorie Jones. *Church Officer Development:* Tim Cook, Graham Farless. *Communications:* Rich Prigge, John Vanderwerff. *Discipleship:* Lauren Martin, Nancy Courts. *Finance:* Rob Peddrick, Dave Thompson. *Hospitality:* Caroline Showers, Bet Vanderwerff. *Human Resources:* Ralph Davison, Lisa Cook. *Outreach:* Margaret Arbuckle, Rhonda Wakefield. *Pastoral Care:* Tamara Slaughter, Sheri Evans. *Property:* Brian Pierce, Sam Simpson. *Stewardship:* Dan Goley, Tom Gillespie. *Technology:* Sam Bostian. *Worship:* Chip Bristol, Morgan Hood. *Nominating:* Nancy Moore, Ross Harris. *Appointments:* Randy Jackson, Leigh Jones.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

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.

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.

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.

THE LITURGICAL COLOR *WHITE* seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors' stoles signifies the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of our mothers, Elaine Tolan Wade and Julia Kester Blythe and in honor of Patricia Stroud Blythe by Homer and Julie Wade.

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!*



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.

AUTHENTIC CONNECTION

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.

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



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.