

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

11:00 a.m.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BAPTISM SUNDAY

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

VOLUNTARY: Prelude, Fugue, and ChaconneDietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & 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

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 664 – Morning Has Broken BUNESSAN



Morning Has Broken

664



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

This 20th-century text was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of "new" and "first," each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

* 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 ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Joy to the World..... LAND OF REST

He rules the world with truth and grace, and
makes the nat - ions prove the glo - ries of his
righ - teous - ness and won - ders of his love.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Genesis 50:15-21* Sharon Norman

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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERVICE OF BAPTISM FOR TUCKER SANFORD HOUSTONNewton Cowan and Jill Duffield

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

THE BAPTISM

PRAYER OVER THE BAPTIZED



ANTHEM: Just As I AmBob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Chancel Choir

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bid'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though toss'd about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings within and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because thy promise I believe
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am (thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;)
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
Here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

– *Charlotte Elliot (1789-1871)*

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

THE WORD READ continues, over

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."

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

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: *Meanness or Mercy?*Jill Duffield

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 444 – Forgive Our Sins as We ForgiveDETROIT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE..... Newton Cowan
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.

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive 444

Capo 5: (Am) (Dm) (Am) (C) (Em) (Am)
 Dm Gm Dm F Am Dm

- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with-in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease.

(F) (Em) (C) (Dm) (Em)(Am)
 B^b Am F Gm Am Dm

but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 what triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
 Then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Few petitions of the Lord's Prayer are as difficult to pray as this one, and we would not dare to pray it if we had to depend on ourselves rather than the example of forgiveness we are given in Jesus Christ. The shape note tune sets these words with appropriate spareness.

TEXT: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, 1983, alt.
 MUSIC: *Supplement to Kentucky Harmony*, 1820; harm. Margaret W. Mealy, 1985
 Text © 1969, 1983 Rosamond E. Herklots
 Music Harm. © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

DETROIT
 CM

OFFERTORY: *Jubilate Deo* Peter Angelea (b. 1988)

Chancel Choir

*Jubilate Deo, omnis terra;
servite Domino in laetitia.
Introite in conspectu ejus
in exultatione.*

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
Serve the LORD with gladness:
come before his presence
with singing.

*Quoniam suavis est Dominus:
in aeternum misericordia ejus,
et usque in generationem
et generationem veritas ejus.*

For the LORD is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth endureth
to all generations.

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

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

The musical score is written on five staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!"

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION.....Newton Cowan

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONJill Duffield

* RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 725 – O Jesus, I Have Promised NYLAND

O Jesus, I Have Promised 725

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

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 O let me feel you near me! The world is ev - er near:
 3 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

(C) (Am7) (Dm) (G) (C) (G7) (C)
 Eb Cm7 Fm Bb Eb Bb7 Eb

be now and al - ways near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

(Am) (D) (G) (F) (G)
 Cm F Bb Ab Bb

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

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

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, draw still near - er and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, true guard - ian of my soul.
 now give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This hymn written by an Anglican clergyman for the confirmation of his children in Victorian times appears here in updated language that may help to make its challenging commitments more immediate. The tune is named for the province in Finland from which it comes.

VOLUNTARY: Grand Chœur Dialogué Eugène Gigout (1844-1925)
John Alexander, organ

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Jill Duffield, *Senior Pastor*
Matt Bussell, *Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission*
Newton Cowan, *Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care*
Nancy Moore, *FPC Elder*
Sharon Norman, *Lay Reader*
Charlotte Freeze, *Acolyte*
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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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.

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 be God's changemakers for good in the world.
FPC is a Matthew 25 church, and 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.

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.

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.

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!



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.

WE NOW HAVE SIX AEDS: Donations from members have allowed us to add three new Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs). They are located in the Welcome Center, the narthex, Smith Building (second floor), Corl Building (second floor), Life Center near Corl, and Redhead Hall. In an emergency, an usher or staff member will obtain the nearest AED.

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.

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Jane Andrews and Andy Brantley's 10th wedding anniversary by Julie and Tom Nelson.

The flowers in the Tower Room are given to the glory of God and in honor of the marriage of Alison Claire Ridenhour and Nathan Patrick Wise on Saturday, September 16.

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  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 for more ways to give.



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

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) with nominations or questions.

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. *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

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.

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 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

[ORG/SIGNUP](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: *Neill'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.

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.

THERE'S A LOT HAPPENING!

Go to

**FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/EVENTS &
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.VS@ME.COM). We'll provide recipes & containers for soup; bread bakers can freestyle (*please include ingredient list*).

NEW!