

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 28, 2024

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: Adagio from *Symphony no. 3*..... Louis Vierne (1870-1937)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Jill Duffield

* CALL TO WORSHIP..... Newton Cowan

Leader: God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

All: God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.

Leader: God embraces the wounded and broken.

All: God knocks down the walls of division and strife.

Leader: God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

All: God is the light of our lives.

Leader: God is the one who makes all things new.

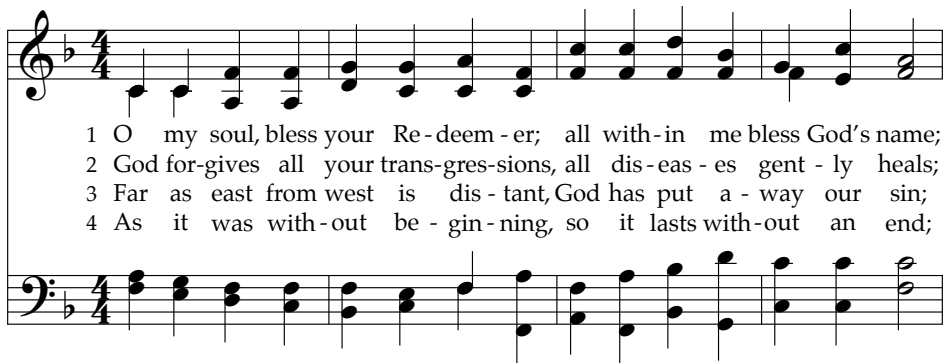
All: Praise be to God, now and forevermore!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 439 – O My Soul, Bless Your RedeemerSTUTTGART

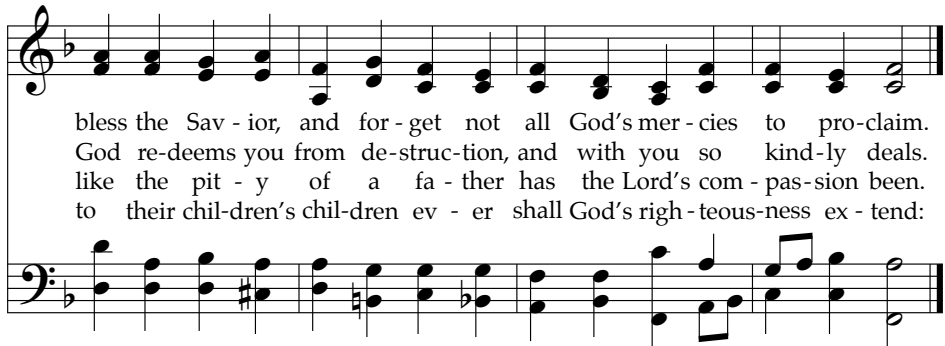


O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer 439

(Psalm 103)



1 O my soul, bless your Re-deem-er; all with-in me bless God's name;
2 God for-gives all your trans-gres-sions, all dis-eas-es gent-ly heals;
3 Far as east from west is dis-tant, God has put a-way our sin;
4 As it was with-out be-gin-ning, so it lasts with-out an end;



5 bless the Sav-ior, and for-get not all God's mer-cies to pro-claim.
6 God re-deems you from de-struc-tion, and with you so kind-ly deals.
7 like the pit-y of a fa-ther has the Lord's com-pas-sion been.
8 to their chil-dren's chil-dren ev-er shall God's righ-teous-ness ex-tend:

5 Unto such as keep God's cov'nant
and are steadfast in God's way;
unto those who still remember
the commandments and obey.

6 Bless your Maker, all you creatures,
ever under God's control,
all throughout God's vast dominion;
bless the Lord of all, my soul!

These stanzas are selected from sixteen that originally made up this paraphrase of Psalm 103, the second of two versions in the volume where they were first published. The tune used here was probably created as a German psalm tune but later came to be used with hymn texts.

TEXT: *The Book of Psalms*, 1871, alt.

MUSIC: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847, alt.

STUTTGART
8.7.8.7

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and all-powerful God, who commands all spirits, comforts those in distress, and casts out destructive forces, we confess that we are unable to do your will. We protect what is familiar and reject what is unknown. We admire those with courage but excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth. We forget that you are always with us, and that with you all things are possible. Forgive us, lead us, make us new. Remove our desire to heed false prophets, and show us your way; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of us all. 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: A Mighty FortressEIN' FESTE BURG

That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a
bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through
him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this
mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's truth a - bid - eth
still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Deuteronomy 18:15-20* Taylor Stroud

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT OF GODLY PLAY FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Anne Albert

ANTHEM: O Lord, Increase My Faith.....Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)
Chancel Choir

O Lord, increase my faith,
Strengthen me and confirm me in Thy true faith;
Endue me with wisdom, charity, and patience,
In all my adversity, teach me to say Amen.



THE WORD READ: *Mark 1:21-28*

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: *Astounded and Amazed* Matt Bussell

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 181 – Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit
(SEE PAGES 6 AND 7)

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Jill Duffield

**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.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION continues, page 8

181 Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit

1 "Si - lence! Fren - zied, un - clean spir - it," cried God's
 2 Lord, the de - mons still are thriv - ing in the
 3 Si - lence, Lord, the un - clean spir - it, in our

heal - ing, Ho - ly One. "Cease your rant - ing! Flesh can't
 gray cells of the mind: ty - rant voic - es, shrill and
 mind and in our heart. Speak your word that when we

bear it. Flee as night be - fore the sun."
 driv - ing, twist - ed thoughts that grip and bind,
 hear it all our de - mons shall de - part.

Based on Mark 1:21–28/Luke 4:31–37, this text recalls how Jesus exorcized a demon, ponders what demons mean today, and concludes with a prayer for wholeness. It is set here to a familiar Welsh tune whose recurring three-note figures help to convey a sense of internal turmoil.

At Christ's voice the de-mon trem-bled, from its vic-tim
doubts that stir the heart to pan-ic, fears dis-tort-ing
Clear our thought and calm our feel-ing; still the frac-tured,

mad-ly rushed, while the crowd that was as-
rea-son's sight, guilt that makes our lov-ing
war-ring soul. By the pow-er of your

sem-bled stood in won-der, stunned, and hushed.
fran-tic, dreams that cloud the soul with fright.
heal-ing make us faith-ful, true, and whole.

**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. Amen.**

– from A Brief Statement of Faith

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: I Will Sing with the Spirit..... John Rutter (b.1945)
Chancel Choir

I will sing with the spirit: Alleluia.
And I will sing with the understanding also: Alleluia.
– 1 Corinthians 14:15

* 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..... Jill Duffield

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Matt Bussell

* RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 619 – Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven LAUDA ANIMA

VOLUNTARY: Toccata in d minor.....Max Reger (1873-1916)
John Alexander, organ



Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

(Psalm 103)

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Jill Duffield, *Senior Pastor*
Newton Cowan, *Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care*
Matt Bussell, *Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission*
Anne Albert, *Director of Worship*
Taylor Stroud, *Lay Reader*
Charlotte Freeze, *Acolyte*
Robert Wells, *Director of Chancel Choir*
John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*
Chancel Choir

“O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer” Text: *The Book of Psalms*; Music: Witt’s *Psalmodia Sacra*.

“A Mighty Fortress” Text: Martin Luther; Music: Martin Luther.

“Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit” Text: Thomas H. Troeger; Music: Thomas John Williams.

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

“Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven” Text: Henry Francis Lyte; Music: John Goss.

* 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.

WHAT TO DO – UNWELLNESS AND MEDICAL

EMERGENCIES: If during the service you or someone who is with you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency; or if you notice someone else having a medical event; please contact the closest usher, who can assist in the situation.

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 10:15-11:15 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. *Want to help?* Choose a Sunday at fpcgreensboro.org/signup. Info: Tim Millisor, tmillisor@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4793; or Nancy Courts, nancy_courts@uncg.edu or 336.273.1617.

COLD, 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!

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.



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.

The flowers in the Tower Room were given to the glory of God and in memory of Virginia Robinson whose service was held on Friday.

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.

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

Martha Kornegay Sharpless
January 22, 2024

COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK OF JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 2024 • FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

RIGHT ABOUT NOW

... it probably looks like the congregation has more men than usual. It's because about 150 FPC women are attending the **Women's Overnight Retreat** at Grandover. Keep participants in prayer as they end the retreat with an on-site worship service this morning, and be sure to check out what they've been doing on social media.

LATER TODAY

- **Middle school youth group**, 5-6:30 pm in the Life Center.
- **High School Connections**, 6-7:30 pm at the Bristols' home.



CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMER TRIP REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

Registration is open for all children & youth summer trips, including Passport Kids, high school Mission Trip to New Orleans, Middle School Conference, and Montreat High School Conference! Contact Lisa Witherspoon (LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG) for more information. Registration links at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.



Wednesday choir rehearsals

Cherub Choir (ages 3-kindergarten) 5-5:30 pm, Corl 303
Credo Choir (1st and 2nd graders) 5-5:30 pm, Smith 301
Canticle Choir (3rd grade - high school) 5:30-6:30 pm, Smith 301
Chancel Choir (high school-adult) 7:15-8:30 pm, Smith 301

Contact Anne Albert (AALBERT@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG) for more info.

NEXT SUNDAY

- **Communion Sunday.** Jill Duffield preaches at 9 and 11 am. Elder nominees will be announced during worship.
- **Adult series continues:** Using his book *God of Deliverance and Transformation* (available in the Welcome Center, \$10), retired pastor Mark Diehl leads a study of the Ten Commandments. Meets 10 am, Garden Room.
- **Class continues with Professor Sandie Gravett:** *Finding Common Ground: A Study of the Abrahamic Traditions*, YMBC and Agape classes combine for a study of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. 10 am, Redhead Hall.
- **Children's Milestones meet**, Corl building.
- **Confirmands meet** in Memorial 304 for "Will You Devote Yourself to the Church's Fellowship?", led by Donna Chase.
- **Kids Disciple Club**, 3-4:30 pm at church.
- **Winter Walking Group**, 3-4 pm.
- **Greensboro Youth Collective.** 5:30-7:30 pm, we will host Presby youth from across the city for YOCO!

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- **Planning Your 4th Quarter Series:** *What Is the 4th Quarter?* Presented by Karen Amirehsani, 5-6 pm, Garden Room. RSVP by Monday, February 5, to Debby Foster, DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336.478.4702.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- **Souper Bowl of Caring** in the Life Center after 11 am worship. Donations go toward summer trip scholarships. Take-out available!
- **Shetler Place update**, 12:15 pm in the Garden Room. Bring your questions and hear what we know right now.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12: Book Club, 10:30 am, Garden Room. F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, facilitated by Neil Dunnivant.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13: Book Club, 1:30 pm, Garden Room. F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, facilitated by Neil Dunnivant.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14:

- **Ash Wednesday** service, 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.
- **Lenten Dinner & Devotions** begins, continues Wednesdays in February & March. Join the FPC family for fellowship, food, and a simple Lenten devotion. Dinner will be served 5:15-6:45 pm in Mullin Life Center. Staff will lead the devotion at 6 pm. Reservations are required by 5 pm Monday each week. Ages \$12 and up, \$10; ages 6-11, \$6; under 5, free. Household max, \$30. Sign up online (FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP) or with the QR code, left.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- **First Sunday in Lent.** Jill Duffield preaches.
- **Capital Campaign kickoff** – After 9 am and 11 am worship, take a tour of work to be done.
- **New church school series begins**, *Making Sense of the Bible* led by Chip Bristol, 10 am in the Garden Room.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20: "Our America: Lowballed," a documentary on discrimination in property assessments. With members from St. James and Westminster, we will be learning about the intersection of race and the challenge of affordable housing and exploring concrete ways to repair aspects of our broken system. This Racial Equity Ministry Team event is at 5:30 pm in the Garden Room.

FIRST KIDS CONSIGNMENT SALE

is returning in March! Sign up now to be a consignor or a volunteer.

Go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/CONSIGNMENT for more info. The sale benefits the Weekday Preschool Center, Backpack Beginnings, Carolina Adoption Services, and Room At The Inn.

2024 PLEDGE UPDATE

Total pledges so far have passed \$2.4 million, just \$341,898 from our goal of \$2.8 million. Pledge



online (FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/GIVE/ANNUAL-PLEDGE), use the QR code (right), or email Christine Ciaccio (CCIACCIO@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

LOOKING AHEAD: MARCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 3: *Communion Sunday and Third Sunday in Lent.*

Jill Duffield preaches, 9 and 11. Congregational Meeting during worship.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6: Planning Your 4th Quarter Series: *Estate Planning*, 5-6 pm, Garden Room. RSVP by Monday, March 4, to Debby Foster, DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336.478.4702.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10: *Daylight Savings* begins.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17: One service for dedication of Capital Campaign Gifts and Confirmation Sunday, 11 am in sanctuary.