

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 17, 2024

11:00 a.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
DEDICATION SUNDAY

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

VOLUNTARY: Prelude and Fugue in a minor Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Jill Duffield

REFLECTION ON ROOTED AND REACHING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN Atim Adika

* CALL TO WORSHIP Rachel Fitch

Leader: In you, O Lord, we are rooted like trees planted by streams of
living water.

**All: We stand firm in your promises, trusting your power and grace
through the ages.**

Leader: In you, O Lord, we are reaching like vines stretching toward
the light.

**All: Rooted and reaching, we abide in your love, rest in your peace,
and work to do your will in our time and place.**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 264 – At the Name of Jesus KING'S WESTON

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rachel Fitch

**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**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION continues, over

At the Name of Jesus

264

Capo 5: (Am)

(G) (Am)

(C) (Am)

(Dm) (Am)

Dm

C

Dm

F

Dm

Gm

Dm



1 At the name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
2 Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
3 Bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
4 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,

(C)

F

(G)

C

(Am)

Dm

(C)

F

(Dm)

Gm



ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;

(G)

C

(Em)

Am

(Am)

Dm

(G)

C

(D)

G

(G)

C



'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast,
for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,

(Am)

Dm

(G)

C

(Em)

Am

(Dm)

Gm

(C)

F

(G)

C

(Am)

Dm



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

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 to us 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 ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory..... RATHBUN

In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing
o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of
sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Jeremiah 31:31-34* Ellen Linton

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke,

though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT OF GODLY PLAY FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Phaedra Smith

THE WORD READ: *John 12:20-33*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: *I wonder what God is doing with us?* Jill Duffield

171 A Sower Came from Ancient Hills



1 A Sow - er came from an - cient hills and cast good
 2 A Sow - er walked through - out the land and, ev - ery -
 3 The Seed was bur - ied deep in death be - neath a
 4 O Christ, you come a - mong us still, the Sow - er



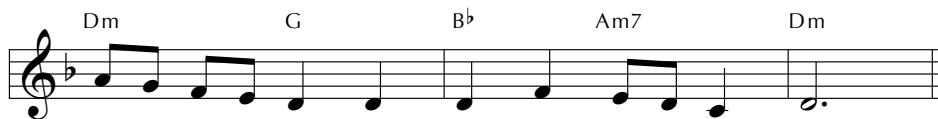
seed a - broad: his field, ten thou - sand hu - man hearts; his
 where he trod, he sowed his life be - cause he was him -
 blood - red sky, and deep - er still was bur - ied hope for
 and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in



seed, the word of God. And some who lis - tened would not
 self the Seed of God. But then, a - top a bar - ren
 those who watched him die. But then, in Jo - seph's gar - den
 glow - ing word and deed, im - plant your Word in wait - ing



hear, and some who heard for - got. But some re - ceived in
 hill, be - neath a dark - ening sky, they threw God's Seed on
 fair, as dawn broke o'er the land, the Seed, from three days'
 hearts, and let it there take hold, un - til it bears in



fer - tile soil the truth the Sow - er taught.
 ston - y ground and left it there to die.
 si - lent sleep, a - woke at God's com - mand!
 fruit - ful lives a har - vest hun - dred - fold.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

All three synoptic gospels record both the telling and the explanation of Jesus' parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23/Mark 4:3-8, 14-20/Luke 8:5-8, 11-15). Because the seed equals "the word," Jesus (as the Word made flesh) becomes the Seed in this expansion of the parable.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 171 – A Sower Came from Ancient Hills.....SEACHRIST

PRESENTATION FOR BAPTISM: ANNA CAROLINE HARRON AND
ARABELLA “BELLA” LING IMANIVONG Jill Duffield and Newton Cowan

PROFESSION OF FAITH

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

THE BAPTISM

CONFIRMATION

Pastoral Interpretation of ConfirmationJill Duffield

Introduction of the 2024 Confirmation Class Donna Chase

Questions of Faith.....Jill Duffield

1. Do you confess that you are a sinner and rely wholly on God’s grace and sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners according to the Gospel, and do you receive and trust Christ alone as your Savior and Lord?
3. Humbly relying on the Holy Spirit, will you endeavor to live as a faithful follower of Jesus, loving God and neighbor to the best of your ability?
4. Will you serve Christ in His church by supporting and participating in its worship and work, sharing in its ministries, its fellowship, and its governance?
- 5 Will you further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Questions to Mentors and the Congregation

Pastor: Confirmation mentors ... Having mentored these students through discussion and study do you commit your continued support, knowing you have helped them in one of many important steps in their faith journey?

Mentors: We do.

Pastor: Congregation, will you stand ... Will you, members of this church, welcome these new members of First Presbyterian and entrust them with the responsibility of leading our church into the future?

Congregation: We will.

BLESSING OF CONFIRMANDS.....Jill Duffield, Newton Cowan, Rachel Fitch

PRAYER FOR OUR CONFIRMANDSNewton 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..... Becky and John Veraar

On this Dedication Sunday we invite you to place your Capital Campaign Pledge Card into the offering plates, or use the QR code on the back page of the bulletin to make your pledge online

You may participate in today's regular offering using the QR code on the back page of this bulletin.

OFFERTORY: Christ Be Our Light Bernadette Farrell

*Rejoice! Ensemble
Chancel Choir*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

[Refrain]:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. *[Refrain]*

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *[Refrain]*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *[Refrain]*

Many the gifts, many the people,
 many the hearts that yearn to belong.
 Let us be servants to one another,
 making your kingdom come.

The congregation is invited to sing the refrain with the Chancel Choir and Rejoice Ensemble:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

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

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise
 God all creatures here be low; Praise God above, ye
 heaven-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION.....Lauren and Will Martin

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONJill Duffield

* RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 223 – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross HAMBURG

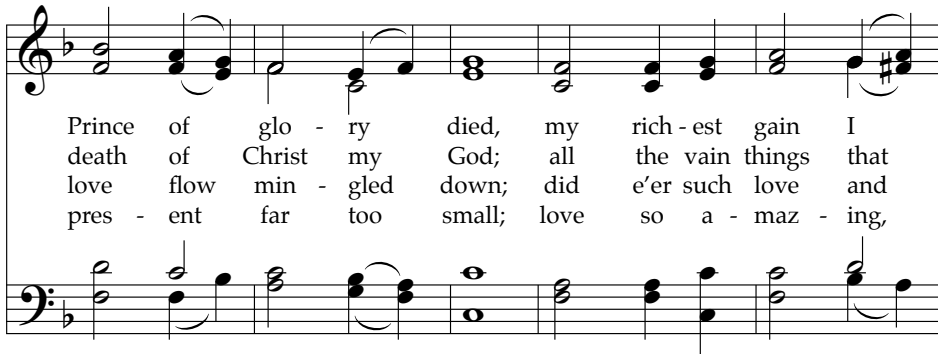
VOLUNTARY: Choral Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)
John Alexander, organ



When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 223



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watts's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Jill Duffield, *Senior Pastor*
Rachel Fitch, *Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident*
Newton Cowan, *Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care*
Donna Chase, *Director of Christian Formation*
Phaedra Smith, *Associate Director of Children & Youth Ministry*
Gay White, *FPC Elder*
Becky and John Veraar, *FPC Members*
Lauren and Will Martin, *FPC Members*
Ellen Linton, *Lay Reader*
Madeline Faucher and Charlotte Freeze, *Acolytes*
Robert Wells, *Director of Chancel Choir*
John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*
Will Edwards, *Director of Music for Rejoice!*
Chancel Choir
Rejoice! Ensemble

Let us rise in body or spirit.

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CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

The following eighth-grade Confirmation Class members complete their journey to church membership during today's service.

Hayes Brabham	Bella Imanivong
Owen Carson	Drew King
Lily Chandler*	Cate Kovarik
Caroline Cochran	Jim Legette
Lily Cochran	Fletcher McIntosh
Cale Coker	Liza Payonk
Anna Craven	JW Poole
Audrey Faucher	Brant Richardson
Susan Fields	Henry Scott
Stella Frick	Porter Spencer
Lydia Hare	Gray Tilley
Anna Harron	

* Lily Chandler will join the church on Monday, March 18,
during this month's Session meeting.

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.



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.




ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Rose Marie Ponton by her family.

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

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

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 28; May 12 and 26; July 14 and 21; August 25; and September 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.* Contact Carolyn Yow, 336-478-4768 or cwow@fpcgreensboro.org.

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**  ("1stpresgso") to get more of our posts in your newsfeed.



QR CODES FOR THIS MORNING'S OFFERINGS

Use this code to make a pledge for the 2024 Capital Campaign.



Use this code for the general offering.



MORE WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may also give by mail, app, or text. 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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered today during the 11 a.m. Sanctuary service to two of our confirmands: Anna Caroline Harron, daughter of Sarah and Gregory Michael Harron; and Arabella "Bella" Ling Imanivong, daughter of Temmy and Pathana Imanivong.

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.

IN MEMORIAM

Keith B. Bowman
March 14, 2024

FIFTH WEEK IN LENT

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK OF MARCH 17-23, 2024 • FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

LATER
TODAY

Youth service day, 2-3:30 pm. Meet on the Greene Street Playground to spruce up with the Weekday Preschool. Contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336.478.4726.

THIS WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24

MONDAY

- **Shout For Joy!** The N.C. A&T State University Choir, Bel Canto Company, Gate City Voices, and regional high school choirs celebrate the music of underrepresented composers including Adolphus Hailstork. 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. Info & tickets: CHORALARTSCOLLECTIVE.COM.

WEDNESDAY

- **Middle School Breakfast Club**, 7:15-7:45 am at Chick-Fil-A on Pisgah Church Road. For more info, contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336.478.4726.
- **Food Drive-By**: Drop off cans for Urban Ministry, 11 am-1 pm (*note new hours*) in front of Redhead Hall. Greeters needed – sign up at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.
- **Weekly Lenten Prayer gathering**, in the sanctuary at noon.
- **Lenten Dinner & Devotion** continues Wednesdays through 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. 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*.



- **Social World of the Early Christians**: A final look at how Roman society thought about religion, politics, gender, family and more, and how the New Testament interacts with those ideas. Led by Jason Myers, religion professor at Greensboro College, 6:30-7:30 pm in the Garden Room.

THURSDAY

- **High School Breakfast Club**: 9th-12th graders are invited to drop in for breakfast and prayer. Panera on Lawndale, 7:15-8:45 am (third Thursday of each month). For more info, contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336.478.4726.

- **Rejoice! at 9 am and Sanctuary at 11 am.**

Childrens choirs will sing at both services.

Newton Cowan preaches.

- **Intergenerational Sunday School** for preschool-elementary families.
- **Making Sense of the Bible** concludes. Church school class, 10 am: Using the book by Adam Hamilton, we explore what the Bible is and isn't, and examine its central themes. Come As You Are elective class in the Garden Room. Books may be purchased at the Welcome Center front desk for \$10.
- **Finding Common Ground: A Study of the Abrahamic Traditions**. This 10 am church school class looks at the basics of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, while stressing the things that bind these communities. YMBC and Agape classes combine for this study with Professor Sandie Gravett. Meets in Redhead Hall.
- **A study of the Gospel of John** continues. Seekers class, led by Gerard Davidson. 10 am, Main 125.
- Marcel Dupré's **Stations of the Cross** with John Alexander on the organ, 5 pm.
- **Middle School Youth Group** meets in the back of the Life Center 5-6:30 pm.
- **High School Connections** meets at the Bristols' home, 6-7:30 pm.



HOLY WEEK

March 27: Wednesday

- Last day for our **Weekly Lenten Prayer gathering**, in the sanctuary at noon.
- Last **Lenten Dinner & Devotions**. 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.

March 28: Maundy Thursday

- **Service at 5:30 pm**. Seated at the round tables in the Life Center, we will worship and take communion with our Hot Dish community.

March 29: Tenebrae

- **Service at 7:30 pm**. Chancel Choir leads music during this service of gradual darkness in the sanctuary.

March 30: Holy Saturday

- **24-hour Prayer Vigil**: Join us as we end our Lenten season in prayer. Pray wherever you are in 30-minute slots starting at 5 am on Holy Saturday. *Use the QR code, right, to sign up.*
- **Easter Vigil begins 7:30 pm** with a bonfire in Memorial Columbarium, then we carry the light into the sanctuary.



March 31: Easter Sunday

- *He is risen!* **7 am Sunrise Service** in Memorial Columbarium.
- **Bring a flower** for the cross.
- **Identical traditional services at 9 & 11 am** with brass, organ and Chancel Choir.
- **Resurrection Egg Hunt** at 10 am. Gather on Elm Street Labyrinth Playground (weather permitting).
- **Rejoice! Easter Celebration**: 10-10:40 am in the Life Center. Join us for an Easter sing-along and donut & coffee fellowship.

TODAY IS CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT SUNDAY,

when we gather in the sanctuary and dedicate our commitments. You can learn more about the campaign and make a pledge *here*.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR SUMMER CAMPS

Camps will be held July 29-August 1, 9 am-noon.

Vacation Bible School
(ages 3-rising second-graders)



Kids Disciple Club Camp
(rising 3rd- to 5th-graders)



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT!

APRIL 20. Enjoy grown-up time while the kids hang out at church with FPC staff and caregivers! Kids will play, eat pizza, and watch Toy Story! Drop off at 5 pm at Corl Building, pick up by 8 pm. Open to infants-5th graders, \$15/child.

Registration required by April 16. Limited to 40 children. Questions? Contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

SAVE THESE DATES!

• Neil's Meals

May 11, 9-11 am in the Life Center

• FPC Blood Drive

June 12, 1:30-6 pm in the Life Center.

Sign-ups for both start soon!

There's more! See our full calendar at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG