

SUMMER WORSHIP

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO

August 3, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

COMMUNION SUNDAY

VOLUNTARY: Psalm-Prelude op. 32, No. 1

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jill Duffield

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Newton Cowan

Leader: Living Rock of Abundant Life, the poor cried out;
you heard, and saved them from all their troubles.

All: **To those who have nothing, your promise is this:
whatever is needed will be given.**

Leader: Your eyes are on those who do justice,
and your ears are open to their voice.

All: **To those who yearn for peace, your promise is this:
whatever is needed will be given.**

Leader: Your arms enfold the brokenhearted,
and rescue those whose spirits are crushed.

All: **To those who fear the future, your promise is this:
whatever is needed will be given.**

O taste and see how good God is!

Happy are those who take refuge in the Living Rock.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 794 – O Savior, in This Quiet Place

ST. STEPHEN

Text: Fred Pratt Green / Music: William Jones



THE CONFESSION OF SIN

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

A brief 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.

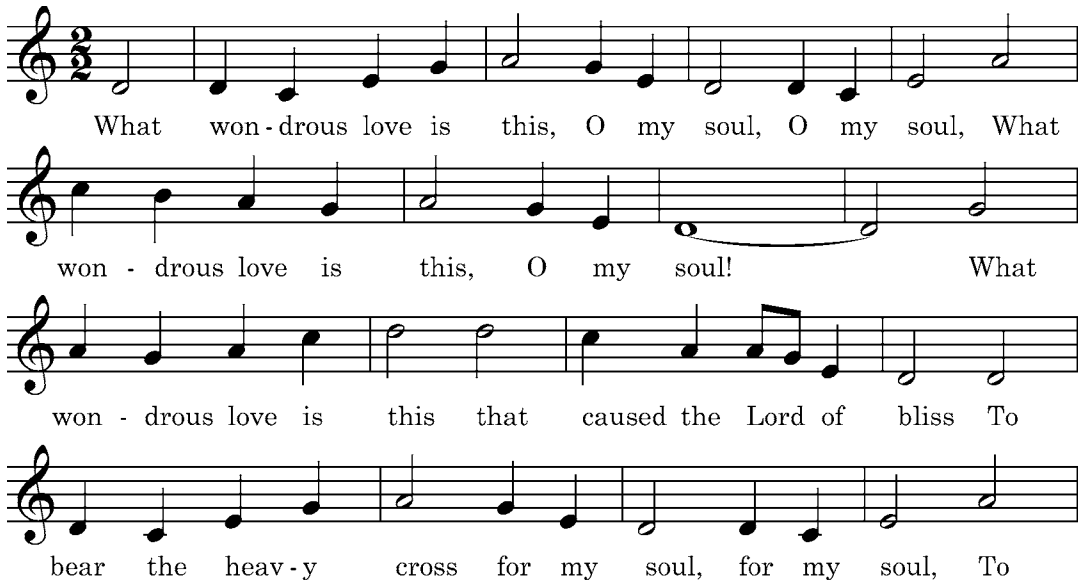
People: And also with you.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

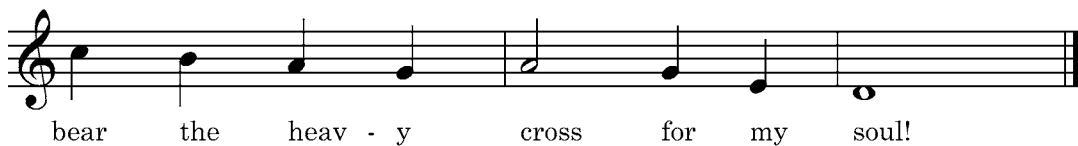
* RESPONSE TO THE PEACE: What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

Text: American folk hymn / Music: Walker's Southern Harmony



What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What
won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss To
bear the heav-y cross for my soul, for my soul, To



THE WORD OF GOD

THE WORD READ: *Matthew 27:45-50*

Al Lineberry

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Lisa Witherspoon

THE WORD READ: *Psalms 77*

I cry aloud to God,
aloud to God, that he may hear me.
In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;
in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;
my soul refuses to be comforted.
I think of God, and I moan;
I meditate, and my spirit faints. *Selah*
You keep my eyelids from closing;
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.
I consider the days of old
and remember the years of long ago.
I commune with my heart in the night;
I meditate and search my spirit:
"Will the Lord spurn forever
and never again be favorable?"

The Word Read *continues, over*

Has his steadfast love ceased forever?
Are his promises at an end for all time?
Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" *Selah*
And I say, "It is my grief
that the right hand of the Most High has changed."

I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD;
I will remember your wonders of old.
I will meditate on all your work
and muse on your mighty deeds.
Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is so great as our God?
You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed your might among the peoples.
With your strong arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah*

When the waters saw you, O God,
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;
the very deep trembled.
The clouds poured out water;
the skies thundered;
your arrows flashed on every side.
The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;
your lightnings lit up the world;
the earth trembled and shook.
Your way was through the sea,
your path through the mighty waters,
yet your footprints were unseen.
You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 202 – An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare WOODWORTH
Text: Fred Pratt Green / Music: English folk melody

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Newton Cowan

Great Thanksgiving

Jill Duffield

Leader: God of our weary years,
 God of our silent tears,...
 For as often as we eat of this bread
 and drink from this cup
 we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Leader: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,...
 And let the church say, Amen.
All: Amen.
Leader: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,...
 And let the church say, Amen.
All: Amen.
Leader: Join our prayers and praise...
 almighty Father, now and forever.
All: Amen.
Leader: And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Newton Cowan

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jill Duffield

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Newton Cowan

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: Récit de tierce en taille from Messe pour les Couvents

François Couperin (1668-1733)

John Alexander, organ

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Text: Thomas Ken / Music: Geistliche Kirchengesäng

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. 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!'.

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

Newton Cowan

* BENEDICTION

Jill Duffield

* HYMN OF SENDING: No. 792 – There Is a Balm in Gilead

BALM IN GILEAD

Text: African American spiritual / Music: African American spiritual

VOLUNTARY: Jesus Accepts His Sacrifice from *La Nativité du Seigneur*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

John Alexander, organ



Today's Worship Leaders

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor

Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Lisa Witherspoon, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Al Lineberry, Lay Reader

John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist



** Let us rise in body or spirit*

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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.

FLOWER DATE 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. *September 14 is still available.* Contact Carolyn Yow, cyow@fpcgreensboro.org or 336-478-4768.

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.

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.

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.



TODAY IS COMMUNION SUNDAY: All are welcome to the Lord's table. Our Communion bread is gluten free. If you are unable to come forward, please raise a hand and an elder will come to you to serve you. We pray that as Christ meets you here you will be refreshed for the journey and strengthened in faith.

ABOUT THIS MORNING'S SUNFLOWER – The sunflower in the sanctuary celebrates the birth of Hattie Wren Connor. Born July 25, 2025, she is the daughter of Kit Connor. The family resides at 3000 Round Hill Road, Greensboro, N.C. 27408.


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.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Our summer worship schedule continues through August 17. One worship service at 10 am, featuring a variety of music offered by our music staff. Adult church school at 9 am, and join us for lemonade on Greene Street after worship. Our summer choir will return August 24 and 31.


IN MEMORIAM

Otis Norwood Fisher
July 24, 2025

O Savior, in This Quiet Place 794



1 O Sav-ior, in this qui-et place, where an-y-one may kneel,
 2 If pain of bod-y, stress of mind, de-stroys my in-ward peace,
 3 If self up-on its sick-ness feeds and turns my life to gall,
 4 You nev-er said "You ask too much" to an-y trou-bled soul.



I al-so come to ask for grace, be-liev-ing you can heal.
 in prayer for oth-ers may I find the se-cret of re-lease.
 let me not brood up-on my needs, but sim-ply tell you all.
 I long to feel your heal-ing touch; will you not make me whole?

- 5 But if the thing I most desire
 is not your way for me,
 may faith, when tested in the fire,
 prove its integrity.
- 6 Of all my prayers, may this be chief:
 till faith is fully grown,
 Lord, disbelieve my unbelief,
 and claim me as your own.

This prayer for healing was written for the ecumenical St. Barnabas Counseling Centre in Norwich, England. As hymns often do, it provides a model for how to pray honestly but not selfishly. It is set to a tune by an Anglican clergyman who wrote on scientific and musical matters.

An Upper Room Did Our Lord 202

Prepare

1 An up - per room did our Lord pre - pare for those he
2 A last - ing gift Je - sus gave his own: to share his
3 And af - ter sup - per he washed their feet, for ser - vice,
4 No end there is! We de - part in peace. He loves be -

loved un - til the end: and his dis - ci - ples still
bread, his lov - ing cup. What - ev - er bur - dens may
too, is sac - ra - ment. In Christ our joy shall be
yond our ut - ter - most: in ev - ery room in our

gath - er there to cel - e - brate their ris - en friend.
bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.
made com - plete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.
Fa - ther's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text brings together the two New Testament traditions regarding Jesus' final evening with his disciples: the Synoptic account of the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26–29 / Mark 14:22–25 / Luke 22:14–20) and the Fourth Gospel's report of his washing the disciples' feet (John 13:3–17).

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1973, alt.
MUSIC: English folk melody; harm. John Weaver, 1988
Text © 1974 Hope Publishing Company
Music Harm. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

O WAILY WAILY
9.8.9.8

There Is a Balm in Gilead

792

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

Fine

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain, but
2 Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend, and
3 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can

to Refrain

then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain. There is a
if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a
tell the love of Je-sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."