



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
September 22, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*We invite you to light a candle as you enter the worship space
to prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

Gathering Music: Hymn No. 100 – *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

[Refrain]:

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

**Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.**

**Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. *[Refrain]***

Gathering Music *continues, over*

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. [Refrain]**

**Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. [Refrain]**

Welcome and Announcements

Jill Duffield

Minute for Mission

Brian Hahne, Urban Ministry

* Call to Worship

Newton Cowan

Leader: Come! Come into the place where God listens!

All: Where we need no money, no status, no fine clothes!

Leader: Come as you are

All: Broken or whole, sick or well, satisfied or with deep needs.

Leader: Come to sing. Come to cry. Come to hear. Come to see.
Come and be ready or come to be made ready.

All: We are here. God is here too.

– adapted from Liturgies from Below by Claudio Carvalhaes

* Song of Praise: Hymn No. 761 – *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

**Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.**

**Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Newton Cowan

**Holy One, Creator of the stars and seas,
your steadfast love is shown to every living thing:
your word calls forth countless worlds and souls;
your law revives and refreshes.
Forgive our misuse of your gifts,
that we may be transformed by your wisdom
to manifest for others
the mercy of our crucified and risen Lord. 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 Peace: Hymn No. 582 – *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

The Word Read: *Psalm 145:10-18*

Bubba Judy

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
to make known to all people your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and gracious in all his deeds.
The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
The LORD is just in all his ways
and kind in all his doings.
The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth..

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A Moment of Godly Play for Children of All Ages

Lisa Witherspoon

The Word Read: *John 6:1-14*

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed: *Feeding the Hungry, One Loaf at a Time*

Matt Bussell



RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith

Jill Duffield

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.**

– from A Brief Statement of Faith



Prayers of the People

followed by 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: Hymn No. 754 – *Help Us Accept Each Other*

**Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted,
and meant to love and live.
Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.**

**Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.**

**Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us; make us one!**

Song of Response: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Sing praises, Alleluia.
Praise God Creator, God the Son,
Praise God the Spirit three in one.
Sing praises, sing praises,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

* Prayer of Dedication

* Song of Sending: Hymn No. 757 – *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

**Today we all are called to be
disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free,
make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first,
our ease and comfort last.**

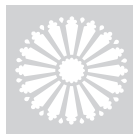
**Pray justice may come rolling down
as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town
to cleanse us and redeem.**

**For God is longing to restore
an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for
a harmony of peace.**

**May we in service to our God
act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod
till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be
disciples of the Lord.**

* Benediction

Matt Bussell



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
Bubba Judy, Lay Reader
Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice! and AV Support
Rejoice! Ensemble

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" Text: Rory Cooney; Music: Irish melody.

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service" Text: Jane Parker Huber; Music: John Zundel.

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" Text: Trad. liturgical text; Music: adapt. Paul M. Vasile.

"Help Us Accept Each Other" Text: Fred Kaan; Music: Doreen Potter.

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng.*

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples" Text: H. Kenn Carmichael; Music: *English Country Songs.*

** 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.

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.



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.

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.

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 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.

IN MEMORIAM

Joanne Grimes
September 15, 2024



COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

See our full calendar at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

SIGN UP NOW!

FPC BLOOD DRIVE



Wednesday, 1:30-6 pm
Make your appointment now!

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Greensboro CROP HUNGER WALK



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6:
We want 200 walkers
for our 200th birthday!
Sign up here or at tables
outside sanctuary and
Life Center each Sunday.

THIS WEEK, SEPT 23-29

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- **BIBLE & BISCUITS:** Before heading to work, join us for food, fellowship and reading & discussing scripture. Bibles and food provided. No sign-up or prep needed—just show up to meet God and your FPC community. 7:45-8:30 am in the Solarium.

- **CIRCLE OF FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP KICKOFF** for young adults and Peacehaven Farm friends. 6:30-7:30 pm, Welcome Center. Info: Evelyn McMullen (863) 944-3047 or Donna Chase, DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- **NAVIGATING LONG-TERM CARE:** 5:30 pm, Garden Room. See “September Ends, October Begins”, back side, for more info on the *Navigating the Healthcare System* series.

How have we been blessed for the past two centuries? And how have you been blessed, even in this past year? From the intricacies of online worship services to the simple joy of doughnuts, First Presbyterian is a community of *blessings* and *being blessed*. As we begin our next 200 years of ministry, here are some of the 200 blessings we want to share by Commitment Sunday, October 27:



The faith, time and resources of William Paisley's group of twelve were committed to a future beyond their imaginations. Could they have known what God was doing, way back in 1824? As you consider your giving for 2025 ministry, imagine what comes next.

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- **TWO SERVICES.** Matt preaches at 9 and 11 am. *Annual Campaign for 2025 Ministry* kicks off; *Commitment Sunday* is October 27.
- **BIBLE 102 CONTINUES**, 10 am in Redhead Hall. Led by Sandie Gravett, hosted by YMBC & Agape.
- **FAITH & POLITICS** led by former county commissioner Margaret Arbuckle. 10 am, Garden Room.
- **THE NEW FAITHFUL FAMILIES CLASS** concludes a study of *The Anxious Generation*. See “*More in September*,” below, for details and additional dates.
- **YOUTH GROUP:** 5-6 pm – Middle School. 6-6:30 – Dinner for all. 6:30-7:30 pm – High School.

SEPTEMBER ENDS, OCTOBER BEGINS

- ***THE ANXIOUS GENERATION: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness.** Church school series concludes next Sunday, September 29, in Faithful Families class, at 10 am in Memorial 304. An abbreviated version will also be offered during youth group September 29, 5-6:30 pm, and for Weekday Preschool parents on Monday, September 30, 9:15-10:15 am in the Garden Room.
- **NAVIGATING THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.** Series concludes with *Medicare 101*: October 9, RSVP by October 6. Both are 5:30-6:30 pm in the Garden Room. RSVP to Debby Foster, 336-478-4702 or DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG
- ***CREATING A CULTURE OF REPAIR:** Four-part discussion of concrete actions for racial reconciliation. Based on Robert Turner’s book. Continues Oct. 16 with “societal actions,” 5:30-7 pm in the Garden Room. Next meetings are Nov. 13 (institutional) and Dec. 11 (spiritual). No time to read ahead? Come for the conversation! Questions? Contact Matt Bussell, MBUSSELL@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

* – Both books, on sale in Welcome Center, \$20 each

camp weaver sunday
october 20

Let us know if
you'll be there



It's time to get this **200th Anniversary party** started! We open with a **Birthday Mix & Mingle drop-in** on October 3.

On October 6 we will have one Celebratory Worship Service at 10 am, after which we will parade behind a bagpiper to the Julian Price House at the end of Fisher Park for an **All-Church Birthday Picnic!** That afternoon we hope to have **200 walkers** in the CROP Walk.

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/200

Registration opens
October 1 for
WOMEN'S RETREAT
2025
JANUARY 25 & 26
GRANDOVER

