



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
October 27, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
COMMITMENT SUNDAY

*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. 834 – *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

**Precious Lord, take my hand;
lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near;
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.**

Welcome and Announcements

Jill Duffield

200 Years of Blessings, Imagine What Comes Next!

* Call to Worship

Caroline Phillips

Leader: As the rains pour from heaven, soaking the earth that it may produce good things ...

All: So God pours God's love upon us, that we, too, may produce goodness, healing and peace.

Leader: We have been blessed with many gifts, talents, and resources.

All: God invites us to use these gifts, talents, and resources for healing, peace, and hope.

Leader: Come, let us worship and celebrate the mighty love and power of God.

All: Praise be to God who has blessed us in so many ways.

* Song of Praise: Hymn No. 37 – *Let All Things Now Living*

**Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us;
pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished,
all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.**

**By law God enforces,
the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Caroline Phillips

**O God of compassion, if you kept a record of our sins, who could stand?
We come before you with our brokenness and our wounds for all to see.
We bring our selfishness, our greed, and our hard heartedness.
We try to do good, but sometimes fail.
We choose to do evil, and sometimes succeed.
Keep your promise to forgive us when we confess to you completely.
We live in the sure hope of your unfailing grace and we cling to your
promise to make us new creations in Christ. 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: *Jeremiah 31:7-9*

Jane Forbes Fields

For thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."
See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.
With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Word Read: *Mark 10:46-52*

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed: *Call and Response*

Jill Duffield

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

Matt Bussell

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**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.**

**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 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

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

Matt Bussell

We invite you to place your 2025 pledge card in the offering plate.

There are extra pledge cards available on a table in the back of the Life Center.

You may also scan the QR code on the screen or in the back of your bulletin to make your pledge!

Offertory: Hymn No. 626 – *As the Deer*

**As the deer pants for water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.**

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

Matt Bussell

* Song of Sending: Hymn No. 157 – *I Danced in the Morning*

**I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

[Refrain]:

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.
They came with me and the dance went on. *[Refrain]***

**I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. *[Refrain]***

**I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. *[Refrain]***

**They cut me down and I leapt up high.
I am the life that will never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. *[Refrain]***

Today's Worship Leaders

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor
 Caroline Phillips, Pastoral Care
 Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission
 Donna Chase, Director of Christian Formation
 Jane Forbes Fields, Lay Reader
 Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice! and AV Support
 Rejoice! Ensemble

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Text: Thomas A. Dorsey; Music: George N. Allen.
 "Let All Things Now Living" Text: Katherine K. Davis; Music: Welsh folk melody.
 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" Text: Trad. liturgical text; Music: adapt. Paul M. Vasile.
 "As the Deer" Text and Music: Martin J. Nystrom.
 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*.
 "I Danced in the Morning" Text: Sydney Carter; Music: American Shaker melody.



* Let us rise in body or spirit

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MAKE A
PLEDGE
HERE



ABOUT COMMITMENT SUNDAY: For the past few weeks, we've reflected on the ways we've been blessed, as a congregation and as individuals, for 200 years and also for today, right here, right now. This morning, we come together as a church body to dedicate our pledges, and to imagine what will come next for 2025 ministry.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may also give by mail, web, app, or text. Scan the QR code *to the left* to make a pledge, or scan the QR code *to the right* to give to the offering 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.

GIVE TO THE
OFFERING
HERE



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.

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.

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

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.

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.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles "Skipper" Hardin West, Jr.
October 24, 2024

John Sumter MacRae III
October 14, 2024

Ann Carlson Patterson
October 13, 2024



COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK OF OCTOBER 27 | See our full calendar at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

TRANSFORMATIVE SERVICE



24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL – Discord and anxiety surround the upcoming election. Join us to pray for our church, our

members, our nation, our leaders, and those in need. 5 am Monday, November 4, through 5 am Election Day, Tuesday, November 5. Choose a 30-minute slot. The sanctuary will be open noon-2 pm Monday, otherwise pray wherever you are.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD – Strengthening families is one of our outreach priorities, and a

home makes a strong foundation. Our next workday will be Saturday, November 9, from 8 am to 3:30 pm. Please let Matt Bussell know if you are going or if you have questions.

HOT DISH & HOPE & CHRISTMAS

- HD&H honor cards will be available beginning November 1. \$5 in the Welcome Center.
- This year, Hot Dish is collecting \$20 Walmart gift cards for our guests for Christmas. Please drop cards off at the Welcome Center by Sunday, December 1.

RESPOND Point your camera phone at the relevant QR Code and click on the link that pops up, or go to

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.

MEANINGFUL WORSHIP

ALL SAINTS' AND COMMUNION SUNDAY is next Sunday, November 3. Jill Duffield preaches at 9 and 11 am, with necrology read during worship.

- A Gathering to Remember All the Saints, 4 pm in Memorial Columbarium.
- All Saints Musical Offering is at 5 pm; John Rutter's *Requiem* and more with Chancel Choir, chamber orchestra & soloists.

LIFELONG LEARNING

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10 AM

For next Sunday, November 3:

- *The Genealogy of Christ as King in The Gospel of Matthew* begins, led by Sandie Gravett in Redhead Hall, YMBC and Agape classes. Explore the story of Jesus Christ as Messiah based on a heritage with four rather surprising women. Runs through November.
- *How Christians Think about and Use the Bible: History* in Memorial 304, Faithful Families class (parents of youth & kids).
- *Music and The Bible*, led by Sam Simpson in the Garden Room, in the Come as You Are class.
- *Gospel of John*, led by Gerard Davidson in Main 125, Seekers class.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A SMALL GROUP,

IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY? We are exploring starting a staff-facilitated, short-term Disciple Bible Study on the *Gospel of John*. The class would start on January 7 and meet Tuesdays from noon to 1 pm for 11 weeks. ***If you think you may want to be a part of this group, please join us for an information meeting on Tuesday, October 29, at noon in the Garden Room*** for more details and an opportunity to ask questions. You can also contact Katherine Farless, KFARLESS@GMAIL.COM.

AUTHENTIC CONNECTION

WOMEN'S RETREAT – Registration is open for the retreat, being held January 25-26 at Grandover. More than 150 attended last year, and registration is already half-full!



Info: FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/WOMENSRETREAT



TRUNK OR TREAT LATER TODAY: Meet 20+ decorated trunks in front of the sanctuary, 4-6 pm.

FUNDAY SUNDAY at Spare Time (5502 Hornaday Road), next Sunday (November 3), 5:30-7:30 pm. Bowling, pizza & chicken tenders, laser tag optional. \$25 includes 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental & food. Laser tag an extra \$5. *Sign up deadline is today!*



NAME THAT VETERAN! As we approach Veterans Day this year, we are inviting church members to visit a special display of Veterans' photographs. Our library staff has numbered each photo and has constructed a scoring sheet challenging you to guess the veteran's name. *This display will be available in the library on Sundays, November 3 and 10, and also on Wednesday, November 6, during the Veterans Luncheon.*



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16: PARENTS' NIGHT OUT Kids enjoy pizza, play & the movie *Aladdin*! 5- 8 pm. \$15 per child, 40 spaces available. We'll take RSVPs until full or November 12.

A FALL DAY OF HISTORY AND BEAUTY: Join the Paisley Travelers for a daytrip to Reynolda House Museum of American Art in Winston-Salem. \$27 per person (excluding lunch), we leave at 9:10 am and return at 3 pm. Tour an exhibit which includes works by Romare Bearden, Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, and more. Afterward, visit the garden and/or village, plus lunch at the Old Fourth Street Filling Station. *RSVP by Tuesday, November 5, to Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM.* Make checks payable to FPC 55+ Travel Group and mail to 202 N. Holden Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410.

OUR 200TH CELEBRATION CONTINUES



This past Wednesday marked THE 95TH YEAR OF THE YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS!

NOVEMBER 24 IS WORSHIP & THE ARTS SUNDAY for our 200th. One worship service at 11 am. Hymn Festival with Mel Bringle leading worship with plenty of singing! Worship & the Arts Weekend begins Friday, Nov. 22 at 7:30 with a UNCG Brass and Organ Concert in the sanctuary; followed on Saturday, Nov. 23 by an Organ and Harpsichord Crawl at 9 am and UNCG Chamber Singers at 7:30 pm. Also join us in the Virginia Gilmer Room on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 10:15 am for "FPC Music Ministry ... How We Got Here!" with Lane Ridenhour, Bonnie McAlister and Robby Hassell.

JOB OPENING

The church is looking for our next Congregational Nurse and Director of Sadye Bowles Ministry Fund. While church members are not eligible for employment, please share this with anyone who might be interested. Job description is at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/JOBS.