

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 23, 2025

11:00 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

VOLUNTARY: Kyrie Kevin Uppercue
Rebecca Pugh, Assistant Organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Jill Duffield

MINUTE FOR MISSIONMary Ellen Poe
Associate Director for Development, Church World Service

* CALL TO WORSHIP Newton Cowan

Leader: O God, you are our God;

People: **our souls thirst for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

Leader: We have looked upon you in the sanctuary;

People: **we have seen your power and glory.**

Leader: Our lips will praise you as long as we live;

People: **We lift up our hearts and call on your name.
Let us worship God!**



* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 42 – Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure.....WINCHESTER NEW

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* KYRIE John Weaver

Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSIONNewton Cowan

O God, you are always true to us in love and we are left wanting to say sorry: for our faithlessness to you and to one another, for our forgetting of those in need, for our failure to cherish all you have given to us. Give us life, O God, to change and enable us to change, that we may live. 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:

My Song Is Love Unknown.....LOVE UNKNOWN

He came from heav - en's throne sal - va - tion to be stow;
the world that was his own would not its
Sav - ior know. But O my Friend, my
Friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'My Song Is Love Unknown'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'He came from heav - en's throne sal - va - tion to be stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior know. But O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!'.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Isaiah 55:1-9*..... Dale Smith

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. 4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may

THE WORD READ continues, over

have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT OF GODLY PLAY FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGESPhaedra Smith

THE WORD READ: *1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: I Am the God Who TestsJill Duffield

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 167 – Forty Days and Forty NightsAUF DER TIEFE RUFEN ICH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Matt Bussell

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,**

**and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty:
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

– Traditional Apostle's Creed

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: HYMN TO THE ETERNAL FLAME.....Stephen Paulus
*Anne Albert and Julie Celona-VanGorden, sopranos
Chancel Choir*

**Every face is in you, every voice, every sorrow in you.
Every pity, every love, every memory, woven into fire.
Every breath is in you, every cry, every longing in you.
Every singing, every hope, every healing, woven into fire.
Every heart is in you, every tongue, every trembling in you,
Every blessing, every soul, every shining, woven into fire.**

– Michael Dennis Browne

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

TALLIS' CANON

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea- tures here be- low; Praise
God a- bove, ye heaven-ly host; Praise Fa- ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A- men.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION..... Matt Bussell

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONJill Duffield

* RECESSIONAL HYMN: 816 – If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN FOTT

VOLUNTARY: Canzona from *Folkloric Suite*

Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

John Alexander, organ



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor
Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Matt Bussell, *Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission*
Phaedra Smith, *Associate Director of Children and Youth*
Dale Smith, *Lay Reader*
Claire Cook, *Acolyte*
John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*
Rebecca Pugh, *Assistant Organist*
Anne Albert, *Director of Worship*
Julie Celona-VanGorden, *soprano*
Chancel Choir

“Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure” Text: Joy F. Patterson; Music: *Musikalisches Handbuch*.

“My Song Is Love Unknown” Text: Samuel Crossman; Music: John Ireland.

“Forty Days and Forty Nights” Text: George Hunt Smyitan; Music: Martin Herbst.

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

“If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee” Text and music: Georg Neumark.

* 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.

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.

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

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.



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.

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of James Stimpson and Michael Manning by Peggy Young. The March 16 flowers were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Pillow by Jane Scott Pillow.

FLOWER DATES 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. *Dates available: May 4 & 25; July 13; August 3 & 31; September 7, 14 & 28; October 5; and November 23.* Contact Carolyn Yow, 336-478-4768 or cyow@fpcgreensboro.org.

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.

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure 42

(Psalm 145)

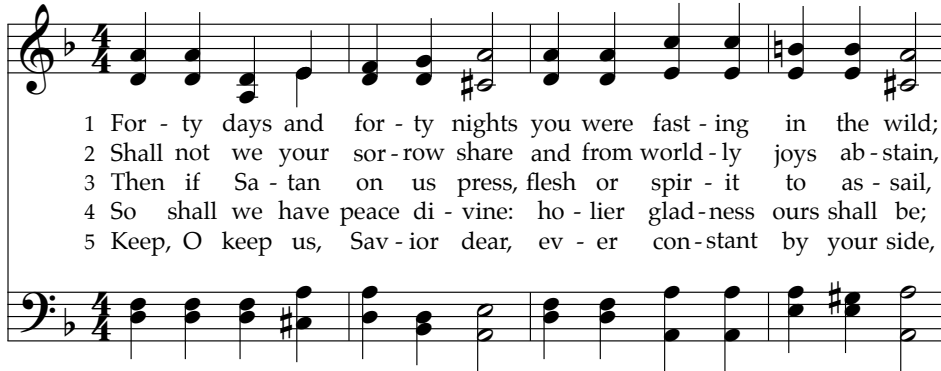
1 Your faith - ful - ness, O Lord, is sure in
2 The eyes of all are fixed on you; by
3 Lord, you are just in all your ways, and
4 My mouth shall speak your praise, O Lord; my

all your words, your gra - cious deeds; you gen - tly lift all
you their wants are all sup - plied; your o - pen hand is
kind in ev - ery - thing you do; for - ev - er near you
soul shall bless your ho - ly name; let all things liv - ing

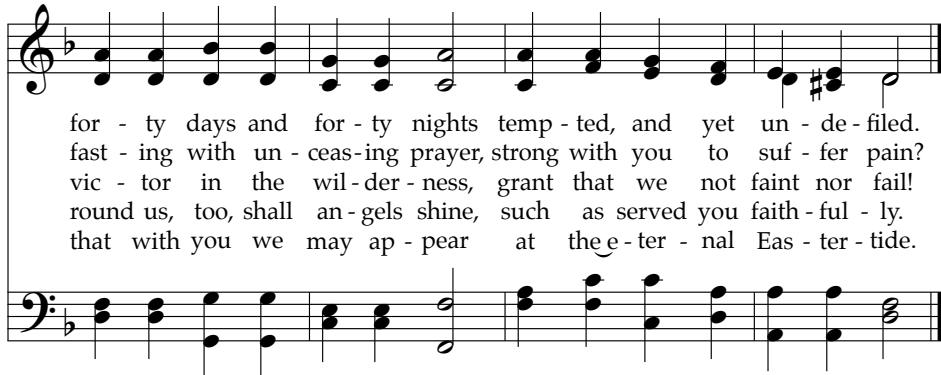
bur - dened souls and well pro - vide for all our needs.
boun - ti - ful and ev - ery soul is sat - is - fied.
stand to hear and help all those who call on you.
join the song of praise, from age to age the same.

This paraphrase of verses from the latter part of Psalm 145 celebrates God's providential care for all creation, especially for those in any need or trouble. This anonymous German tune was apparently introduced to English hymnody by John Wesley in a 1742 music collection.

167 Forty Days and Forty Nights



1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
2 Shall not we your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side,



for - ty days and for - ty nights temp - ted, and yet un - de - filed.
fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
that with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

This text, given sharper focus by being reduced from nine stanzas to five, reflects both on Christ's temptation in the wilderness and on the purpose and goal of Lent as preparation for Easter. It pairs well with a 17th-century German chorale setting for Psalm 130.

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee 816

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hope - ful
2 On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure in cheer - ful
3 Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine

heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what - e'er be -
hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er thy Keep - er's
own part faith - ful - ly. Trust the rich prom - is - es of

tide thee, to bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our
grace; so shall they be ful - filled in thee. God nev - er

God's un - chang - ing love builds on the rock that nought can move.
in - most wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways dear.
yet for - sook at need the soul se - cured by trust in - deed.

This hymn is a testimony of experience. The original seven-stanza German text (based on Psalm 55:22) and its tune were created by the author/composer at the age of twenty in thanksgiving for finding employment many weeks after being left almost penniless following a robbery.

COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK OF MARCH 23 | *See our full calendar at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG*

OUR WALK THROUGH LENT

DAILY – Pray with your head, heart, and hands in the **INTERACTIVE LENTEN PRAYER CENTER** with Breath Prayers, Examen and more. Weekdays 9 am-3 pm, Sundays 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Smith 242, Myers Loyalty Room. Holy Week prayer stations will be set up April 6-Easter Sunday.

THIS TUESDAY – LENTEN BIBLE & BISCUITS: Join us for food, fellowship and discussing Lenten scriptures. 7:45-8:30 am in the Solarium.

WEDNESDAYS – LENT-EASTER WALKING GROUP: 5:30 - 6:30 pm through April 9. Meet at the sanctuary steps. Info, Donna Chase, DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

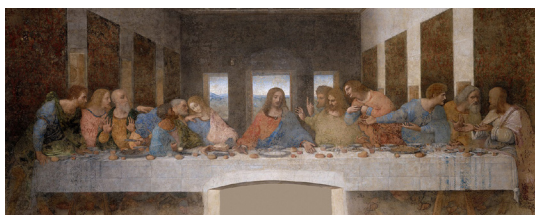
THURSDAYS – LENTEN YOGA: The class will reflect the sermon series & Easter season, Thursdays through April 24, Virginia Gilmer Room, 4:25 - 5:30 pm. Info, REVVIRGINIAWOOD@GMAIL.COM.

SUNDAYS

SERMON SERIES: March 30, Matt Bussell on “I Am the God Who Reconciles.” April 6, Jill Duffield on “I Am the God Who Re-creates.”

ADULT CLASSES, 10 AM:

Language of the Soul: A conversation about the book by Jeff Crosby (available in the Welcome Center), through April 6 in Memorial 304.



Da Vinci's The Last Supper: Sandie Gravett's series on The Disciples focuses on the mural imagining the initial reactions of the disciples after Jesus says one will betray him. Through March 30 in Redhead Hall.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13

- Children's choirs lead the **Palm Processional** at 9 am Rejoice! & 11 am Sanctuary services.
- Families make **resurrection eggs** at 10 am.

- John Alexander will offer **Music for Holy Week** with works by Nicolas de Grigny and Johann Sebastian Bach, and Marcel Dupré's *Passion Symphony*, 5 pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17:

Communion with our Hot Dish & Hope guests, 5:30 pm, Life Center

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18:

Tenebrae service, 7:30 pm, sanctuary, music with the Chancel Choir and readings

GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER,

APRIL 19: 7:30 pm, sanctuary, begins with a bonfire in the Columbarium

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20:

- Sunrise service, 7 am, Old Presbyterian Graveyard behind the Greensboro History Museum
- 9 & 11 am, Identical services in the sanctuary
- 10 am in the Life Center, fellowship and doughnuts with Easter music from the Rejoice! band

AUTHENTIC CONNECTION

YOUTH GROUP: *Today, March 23*, Middle School meets at 5 pm, all youth have dinner from Zaxby's at 6, and High School meets at 6:30. *Sunday, March 30*, Middle School meets 5-6:30 pm (high school at Asheville Youth Mission this weekend).

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

Circle of Friends: Fellowship & Bible study for young adults and Peacehaven Farm friends. Second & fourth Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm, Welcome Center.

TRANSFORMATIVE SERVICE

WINTER EMERGENCY SHELTER:

Pick a date to provide a meal for our 15 guests, help with check-in, or stay overnight. Info: FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/WINTERSHELTER OR MBUSSELL@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

FOOD DRIVE-BY: Drop off canned & non-perishable food for Urban Ministry, 11 am-1 pm in front of Redhead Hall.

YOUTH ON MISSION: *This Friday & Saturday* some of our high schoolers will be in Asheville, serving people living on the margins. Keep them in your prayers.

BLUE JEANS GO GREEN: The Earth Care Team is collecting old jeans and denim for recycling. Leave in the boxes around campus or at the Wednesday Food Drive-by in front of Redhead Hall.

200TH CELEBRATION: As our Outreach focus closes, Matt Bussell leads a brainstorming session on what FPC's outreach might look like in the future. March 30, 10 am, Garden Room.

COMING IN APRIL



... and nature sings

Anne Albert, soprano
Radha Upton, piano

April 6 at 4 pm

Faure's *La Chanson D'Ève*
Montsalvage *Canciones para niños + more*

MILITARY & VETERAN CAREGIVER SUMMIT: MENTAL HEALTH. For anyone who helps or supports veterans, no matter how many hours a week. Keynote speaker is Gen. J.R. Gorham. Free. April 12, 8 am-5 pm in Mullin Life Center.

VETERANS' FELLOWSHIP PICNIC: April 30 at noon at Carolina Field of Honor in Kernersville. Speaker will be Jeannette Davidson-Mayer. RSVP by April 23 to DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.



SUNDAY, APRIL 27

One service at 11 am with guest preacher Rev. Grier Booker and the premiere of a children's choirs anthem, and a joyful potluck afterward

Celebrate 200 finale

▶ REGISTRATION NOW OPEN AT FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP

- End of Year Youth Celebration, May 3 at Carowinds. Limited to first 35
- Kids Disciple Club End of Year Celebration May 4 at Urban Air
- Weekday Preschool Summer Camps
- Vacation Bible School and Kids Disciple Club Camp, August 4-7
- PW Luncheon, Fork & Faith + more