



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
October 26, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

GENEROSITY SUNDAY

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

Gathering Music: Hymn No. 22 – God of the Sparrow

**God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise**

**God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save**

**God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks**

**God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life**

**God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace**

**God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home**

Welcome and Announcements

Jill Duffield

The Gift of Generosity

Tom Gillespie

* Call to Worship

Newton Cowan

Leader: How beautiful are the places where you dwell, O Lord!

**All: This house cannot contain your glory; even the heavens
are bursting with the goodness of your presence!**

Leader: Happy are those who find their strength in you.

**All: Hear our prayers this day, Holy God,
as we proclaim your praises to all the earth!**

* Song of Praise: Hymn No. 65 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.**

**Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.**

* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought,
word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind
and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy,
forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we
shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the
glory of your holy name. 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 14:7-10*

Although our iniquities testify against us,
act, O LORD, for your name's sake;
our rebellions indeed are many,
and we have sinned against you.
O hope of Israel,
its savior in time of trouble,
why should you be like a stranger in the land,
like a traveler turning aside for the night?
Why should you be like someone confused,
like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?
Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by your name;
do not forsake us!

Thus says the LORD concerning this people:
Truly they have loved to wander;
they have not restrained their feet;
therefore the LORD does not accept them;
now he will remember their iniquity
and punish their sins.

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: *Luke 18:9-14*

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed

Jill Duffield

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* 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 Apostles' Creed

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 and regular mail, can be found there as well.*

Offertory: Hymn No. 729 – Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

**Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart;**

**Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.**

In my heart, in my heart,

**Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart;**

**Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart.**

In my heart, in my heart,

**Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart;**

**Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart.**

In my heart, in my heart,

**Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart;**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart.**

In my heart, in my heart,

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart.**

* Song of Response: Doxology

**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. 475 – Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!**

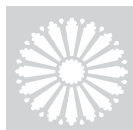
**Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.**

* Benediction

Jill Duffield



Today's Worship Leaders

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor

Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission

Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Lisa Witherspoon, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice!

Rejoice! Ensemble



"God of the Sparrow" Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda; Music: Carl F. Schalk.

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" Text: William Williams; Music: John Hughes.

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

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" Text and music: African American spiritual.

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

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Text: Robert Robinson; Music: *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music*.

** Let us rise in body or spirit*

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First Presbyterian Church, 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401 • 336.373.0445 • www.fpcgreensboro.org

2025-2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS: *Adult Formation:* John Sullivan, Lisa Ganem. *Youth Formation:* Layne King, Catherine Freeze. *Children's Formation:* Lorie Jones, Katie Rich. *Church Officer Development:* Graham Farless, Nancy Abrams. *Communications:* Ty Buckner, Jean Pinckard. *Discipleship:* Nancy Courts, Alice Moore. *Finance:* Dave Thompson, Hugh Williams. *Hospitality:* Bet Vanderwerff, Patrice Newman. *Human Resources:* Lisa Cook, Rhonda Youngdahl. *Outreach:* Rhonda Wakefield, Hoke Huss. *Pastoral Care:* Sheri Evans, Marshall Brown. *Property:* Sam Simpson, Jonathan Wade. *Stewardship:* Tom Gillespie, Sue Cole. *Technology:* Adrienne Woods, chair. *Worship:* Margaret Benjamin, Gay White. *Nominating:* Ross Harris, Andrew Spainhour. *Appointments:* Leigh Jones, Allison Cochran.

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.

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.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may give by mail, web, or text. Scan the QR code (right) to give online. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text for instructions for giving via text. Mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.



THE LITURGICAL COLOR GREEN seen through 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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered today during the 11 a.m. worship service to Reynolds Royce Hansen, son of Jenny and Kevin Hansen.

JOIN THE REJOICE! FELLOWSHIP TEAM – We’re looking for folks to pick up donuts, prepare coffee, set up and/or serve before the 9 am Rejoice! service. This is a great way to get to know your fellow worshipers. Sign up for regular service or as an occasional substitute: see Julie or Homer Wade in the back of the Life Center before or after Rejoice! or email hwade1805@gmail.com.

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.