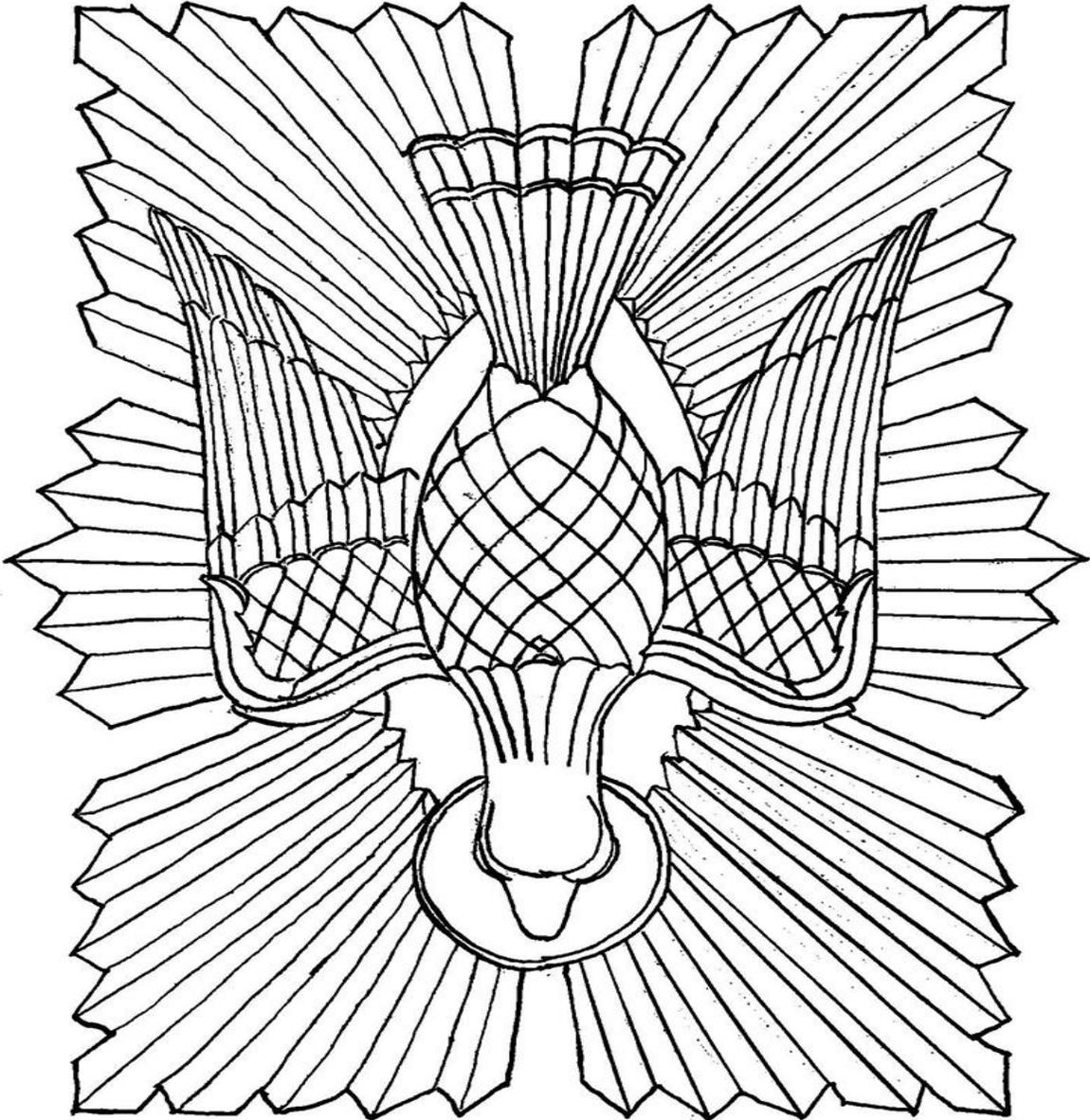


First Presbyterian Church

Serving Christ from the heart of the city to the ends of the earth with love, faith and action.

February 5, 2023
5th Sunday after Epiphany



“Luke 3:21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove.”

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Amazing Grace

arr. Diane Bish

Call to Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,

Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them, a light has dawned!

Let us worship God!

*Hymn

["O Day of Rest and Gladness"](#)

No. 393

Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, that we have lived diminished lives, guided by unworthy pursuits and selfish ambitions. We have set aside the high calling to be your holy people, and we have settled for less. Restore in us a yearning to live a life of sacred purpose, reflecting the devotion and compassion we have seen in Jesus. Lift our eyes to the possibility of a life lived for your glory, that we might discover the joy you intend. Hear now our particular confessions, offered in silence...

Kyrie | Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Pardon

Friends in Christ, in response to this gift of God's grace, how then shall we live?

With gratitude, following after the Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to love

God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.

This is the way of Jesus, in whom we find life!

*Gloria Patri | Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

We Celebrate our Life Together

The Sacrament of Baptism (11 o'clock service)

Lena Heath Finley

Congregational Response

["Jesus Loves Me", verse 1](#)

No. 188

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

Laurie Taylor Weicher

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and 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.**

Congregational Response to Prayer

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

We Listen to God's Word

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|
| A Moment for Mission/Children | Haiti Outreach Ministry: Child Sponsorship | Katy Schafer |
| Scripture Readings | Psalm 8; Matthew 5:13-16 | |
| Sermon | "Being Our Best Selves" | Ed McLeod |

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn ["Arise, Your Light Is Come"](#) No. 744

*Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

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 at 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.

An Invitation to Generosity

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Offertory | (8:30) Lord, for the Years David Kesterson | Michael Baughen, arr. David Iliff |
| | (11:00) BWV 61, Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland Chancel Choir | J.S. Bach |

*Doxology | **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God above; ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication

We Bear God's Word into the World

*Hymn ["God is Calling through the Whisper"](#) No. 410

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response

Go with us Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in Your Spirit, strong and true, our lives may be our gift to you.

*Postlude Psaume XVIII "I Cieli Immensi" Benedetto Marcello

*All those who are able may stand.

Children's Church is offered for four years - second grade during the sermon.

The *Chancel Flowers* are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of Brenda's mother, Marjorie P. Ferree, and Jerry's mother, Bettie Y. Johnson, on the occasion of their February birthdays by the Johnson family:
Jerry, Brenda, Kathryn, Jay, Blake, Worth and Campbell.

Offertory Lyrics

Now come, saviour of the Gentiles,
You who are known as the Virgin's child,
So that the whole world marvels
That God ordained him such a birth.

Upcoming Events

Ministry Marketplace: Join us this morning before and after worship for a fun and interactive event. Different ministry areas in the church will have tables set up to help you learn about their ministry and invite you to consider participating! There will be swag and silly prizes and snacks too. Hope you'll join us and consider how God may be inviting you to take on something new!

Ash Wednesday Drive-Through: The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22. As a way to mark this season and enter into it with fidelity and penitence, you're invited to come to the church parking lot between 11:30am and 1pm and be marked with the ashes. Pastors will impose ashes on your forehead and say a prayer. All are welcome.

Reminders

Valentine's Day Fundraiser: The annual Pathfinders and ROCKstars Valentine's Day fundraiser to pay for 3 child sponsorships in Haiti is back! FPC children have hand-drawn colorful hearts that have been heat infused onto 10 oz. mugs. All mugs ordered online are \$10.60 and all proceeds go to Haiti Outreach Ministries so that our 3 sponsored children can go to school. Your online order will be ready for pick-up in the Edge Lobby on Sunday, February 12th. Scan the QR code below to order a mug!



FPC Shares Donations - February

The item for the month of February is Canned/Instant Soup. Drop off donations at one of the receptacles in the Edge Lobby or in the Lisa Ham Gathering. Thank you for your continued support of this vital ministry.

Connect with us every week just to let us know you worshiped with us today or send us your prayer requests. Go to www.fpcraleigh.org/connect.

To make a contribution to FPC, use this QR code. We are grateful for every expression of generosity.

