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

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June 11, 2023

2nd Sunday after Pentecost





*Symbolizing the resurrection and gift of new life. 2 Cor 5:17-18: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ.”*

**We Gather in God’s Presence**

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude ***Gymnopedie No. 3*** Eric Satie

Call to Worship

 I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

 with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

 **I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;**

 **your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. (Ps. 89:1-2)**

Hymn “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” No. 645

Prayer of Confession Laurie Taylor Weicher

**God of abundance: of wedding wine and swollen nets and baskets full after all have eaten, show yourself to us when we come up empty, when the ways we know are not enough. Forgive our narrowness of vision and give us eyes to recognize Your many gifts. Yoke us to your heart until we love without measure. Trusting in your love and forgiveness, we name our own sins and brokenness in silence before you….**

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**

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

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 Children Katy Schafer

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings Romans 4:13-25; Genesis 11:27-32

Sermon “Letting Up – Pressing On” Bob Dunham

**We Respond to God’s Word**

\*Hymn “Lead On, O King Eternal” No. 269

\*Affirmation of Faith (from *A Declaration of Faith*, 1977)

**In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus God kept his promises. All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ. But the work of God in Christ is not over. God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen. The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence that supports us when lesser hopes fail us. In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth, certainty of victory over death, assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death. This hope gives us courage for the present struggle.**

An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory “God Is My Shepherd” Antonin Dvorák

(from the ***Biblical Songs***) *a paraphrase of* Kathy Hopkins, mezzo *Psalm 23*

\*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 “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” No. 687

\*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 ***A Mighty Fortress*** Martin Luther

 *Ein’ Feste Burg*    *arr. Joel Raney*

\*All those who are able may stand.

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

Today’s ***Lay Reader*** is Mary Jo Littlewood

The ***Chancel Flowers*** are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of Houston and Virginia Black on their wedding anniversary by Anne Black Carter and Hugh Black and family

**Offertory Lyrics**

God is my shepherd, I want for nothing.

My rest is in the pleasant meadows, He leadeth me where quiet waters flow!

My fainting soul doth He restore, and guideth me in the ways of peace, to glorify his name.

And though in death’s dark valley my steps must wander, my spirit shall not fear, for Thou art by me still:

Thy rod and staff are with me, and they shall comfort me.

**Upcoming Events**

**FPC Summer Choir** | On June 18th the FPC Summer Choir season kicks off! All are welcome to come and sing. Each week we will rehearse the offertory at 9:30 am and then sing in the service that immediately follows. Feel free to contact Mark Woodcock with any questions or concerns: mwoodcock@fpcraleigh.org

**Habitat - Baffle Decorating** | Sunday June 18th at 11:00, Come to Memorial Hall, where we will cut and decorate attic baffles for Habitat for Humanity. What are attic baffles? Attic baffles — also known as insulation stops or rafter vents — are chutes between the vented soffits and insulation in an attic. They provide space that prevents the blockage of airflow from either insulation or fiberglass batts and allows the air to flow freely. All ages welcome.

Contact Kathy Johnson at kjohnson@fpcraleigh.org with any questions.

**Reminders**

**“Cents-Ability” (Formerly “Pennies for Hunger”)** | All loose offerings collected in the plate today (2nd Sunday of the month) will be used to support local hunger ministries, as well as national and international projects through the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Pledges are excluded from this offering

**Lay Readers Wanted |** Would you like to be more involved in Sunday worship service? Sign up to be a lay reader and contribute in a deeply meaningful way as a voice of the congregation. What will you do? As a lay reader you will be reading the opening scripture in your choice of either the 8:30 am or 11:00 am service. Scared of those crazy Bible names? Don’t be! You’ve got this and we’ve got you! To join us contact Jamie Williams, Office Manager at jwilliams@fpcraleigh.org or ianmccaslin@gmail.com. A diversity of voices in worship is a beautiful thing!

**FPC Shares Donations - June |** The item for the month of June is rice/gravy/pasta/pasta sauce. Please 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**