



First Presbyterian Church

of Raleigh, North Carolina

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

April 21, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Schafe können sicher weiden, BWV 208

J.S. Bach

Hannah Bomar, soprano

Sheep can safely graze where a good shepherd watches over them. Where rulers are ruling well, we may feel peace and rest and what makes countries happy.

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

O sing to the Lord a new song;

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing, and give praise to God's name;

Tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

*Hymn

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

No. 645

Prayer of Confession

Laurie Taylor Weicher

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone.

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.

Kyrie

No. 575

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

No. 581

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.

The Sacrament of Baptism (11a)

Easton Grey Johnson

Child of Brittani & Brian Johnson

(Children will come forward during the baptism.)

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

Congregational Response to Baptism "Jesus Loves Me," Verse 1

No. 188

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.

Special Music (11:00)

Polonaise in B-flat

Frederic Chopin

Davis Baker, piano

We Listen and Respond to God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings

Psalm 23 , John 10:11-18

Today's lay reader at 11 am is Mary Jo Littlewood.

Sermon

Make Room

Judy Pidcock

*Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

No. 450

*Affirmation of Faith - from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Troy Leshner-Thomas

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. Amen.

An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Slow Traveller
Chancel Choir

Jeremiah Ingalls

*Doxology

No. 609

*Prayer of Dedication

We Carry God's Word into the World

*Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

No. 366

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response

No. 748

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

*All those who are able may stand.

Offertory Lyrics

O happy souls, how fast you go,
And leave me here behind;
Don't stop for me, for now I see

The Lord is just and kind.
Go on, go on, my soul says go,

And I'll come after you,
Though I'm behind, yet I can find,
I'll sing Hosanna too.

Lord, give you strength that you may run,
And keep your footsteps right.
Though fast you go, and I so slow,
You are not out of sight.

When you get to the worlds above,
And all his glory see,
When you get home, your journey's done,

Then look you out for me.

For I will come fast as I can
Along that way I steer;
Lord, give me strength, I shall at length
Be one amongst you there.

There all together we shall be,
Together we will sing.
Together we will praise our God
And everlasting King

The Chancel Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of
H. Mac Fuller and Joyce Fuller by their family

(Childcare is available in the Stock building from 8:20-12:15.)

Today's acolyte is Samantha Eckard, 11:00.

Staff Directory (919) 821-5750

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Melani Willhite
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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.



On the Calendar This Week April 21 – April 27

Today – Early Service 8:30a | Church School 9:45-10:40a | Late Service 11a
Confirmant Luncheon 12p | Children and Youth Programs 5-7:30p | Responding to Stress-
Parent Edition 6-7p

Monday, Apr 22 – Staff Meeting 1-2p | Handbells 7-8:30p

Tuesday, Apr 23 – PNC Meeting 6:30-8p

Wednesday, Apr 24 – Early Birds 6:30-8a | Session 7-8:30p

Thursday, Apr 25 – Moms Demand Action 8a-12p | Choir 7-8:30p

Friday, Apr 26 – No activities or events scheduled.

Saturday, Apr 27 – No activities or events scheduled.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Responding to Stress...Parent Edition

Today, from 6-7pm. Do you have times when you feel stressed? Or when you are trying to help stressed children or teens? If your answer is yes and you want to learn some new strategies, please join us in the Parlor off the Gathering Space. We will be talking with church member and psychologist, Elizabeth Sparrow, about ways to respond to stress in our lives. This conversation will begin with understanding the function of stress, then move to learning three levels of strategies for responding to stress that can be used effectively to deal with stress at any age, including children through adults. Email Laurie Taylor Weicher at lweicher@fpcraleigh.org or call the church office at 919-821-5750 if you plan on attending.

FPC Mission Fair

Sunday, April 28, from 8am-1pm in Memorial Hall. Are you looking for a meaningful and impactful way to serve? Come and meet our Mission Partners and learn how they are serving locally, state and world-wide. Over 30 organizations will be represented and they will be ready to answer questions and help you get connected.

Pathfinders & ROCKstars Cookout & End-of-Year Party

Sunday, April 28, from 4-6pm, at Pullen Park Shelter #2. We will have a special send-off for our 5th Graders! Please RSVP with Katy Schafer at kschafer@fpcraleigh.org.

FPC Officer Nomination

Your 2024 Nominating Committee has opened nominations for the offices of Elder and Deacon, Class of 2027. Nomination forms can be found on the counter in the Gathering Space, Sunday School rooms or by scanning the QR Code found around the church. Please place completed forms

in the box on the counter in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space or in Darcy Dye Bowers' box on the 2nd floor of the Edge Building by Sunday, May 5.

PW Birthday Celebration & Annual General Meeting

Monday, May 6, at 12pm in Memorial Hall, come and join the Presbyterian Women and hear from this year's speaker, Kathy Johnson, Director of FPC Community Outreach. Cost for lunch is \$10. RSVP by April 29 with the Church Office.

FPC Shares Item for April

This month's FPC Shares item is Peanut Butter! Bring this item and/or your favorite non-perishable food donations to the church. There are FPC Shares receptacles on both sides of the Edge Lobby and in two places in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space outside the sanctuary.

Mission Partners and Highlights

"Every child has the right to mature in an environment free from abuse and neglect." It was this belief that motivated the Junior League of Raleigh to establish SAFEchild in 1992, with the mission to eliminate child abuse in Wake County.

SAFEchild – which stands for Stop Abuse For Every child – supports families having a wide range of needs. They are the only organization in Wake County that offers a full range of child abuse prevention and intervention services to children and families at no cost. Expertly trained professionals and volunteers build strong families in which parents nurture thriving children. Their Goals are as follows: Prevent child abuse from ever occurring. Empower parents and caregivers to move toward healthy family relationships by breaking negative parenting patterns. Provide specialized intervention and treatment that promotes recovery, healing and promising outcomes for children, families and the community. Educate and raise awareness about the issue of child abuse in Wake County. SAFEchild works towards achieving these goals by offering a variety of parenting programs, support groups, and community based programs. During the last fiscal year, SAFEchild served over 16, 0000 children and caregivers. Their big news is that have a brand new facility at 2841 Kidd Road. This new facility allows them to house all of their programs under one roof, instead of being spread across multiple locations. As a result, they are able to reach more families that need help. The FPC Mission budget annually supports the great work of SAFEchild and they still hold some of their parenting classes in the Outreach area of the Stock building. Additionally, FPC members have close ties to SAFEchild - Hope Carmichael is on their Board of Directors and Anna Jackson works in their Development office. To read their latest Impact report, visit

<https://safechildnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/FY23-Impact-Report-FINAL.pdf>