MAY 9, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
508 WEST DAVIS STREET
BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27215
www.fpcburlington.org
336-228-1703
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.
Let us now prepare our hearts to worship God.

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION
Andante grazioso from *Divertimento in E-flat*  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)
W. Thomas Jones, organ

*CALL TO WORSHIP*
Sing to God a new song,  
for God has done marvelous things!  
Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth,  
for God is still doing marvelous things!  
Break into joyful song!  
Sing praises with lyre and melody and trumpets!  
Let the seas roar and the floods clap their hands!  
For God is coming to judge the world with righteousness.  
God is coming to judge the world with equity.  
Sing to God a new song!

*CALL TO CONFESSION*

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION*  
-John 15-
Jesus, friend and brother,  
you taught us to abide in your generous love,  
for it completes our lives and gives us joy;  
you ask us to love others as you have loved us,  
for it brings your creation to fruition.  
We sometimes struggle  
to love the people in our lives  
as you have loved us.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
and teach us your love again.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

*PASSING THE PEACE, LOVE, AND JOY OF CHRIST TO OTHERS*  
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

LISTENING FOR THE WORD
A TIME WITH CHILDREN (10:00)
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 98
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM
O Come, Let Us Sing
Polly Butler Cornelius, soprano

O come, let us sing unto the Lord:
let us make a joyful noise unto the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,
and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In His hand are the deep places of the earth:
the strength of the hills is His also.
The sea is His and He made it:
and His hands formed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down:
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For He is our God;
and we are the people of His pasture,
and the sheep of His hand.

-Psalm 95:1-7

GOSPEL READING: John 15:9-17
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Love!
Rev. Carrie Tuttle

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - from A Brief Statement of Faith
We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God’s commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry,
   God delivered the children of Israel
   from the house of bondage.

Loving us still,
   God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
   like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
   God is faithful still.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

ANTHEM

I Am the True Vine

Polly Butler Cornelius, soprano

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman,
every branch that beareth fruit,
he purgeth it that it may bring forth more fruit.
He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit.
Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;
so shall ye be my disciples.
As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you:
continue ye in my love.
This is my commandment, that ye love one another,
as I have loved you.

John 15:1-2, 5, 8, 9, 1

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*VOLUNTARY

Gavotte in F Major

Samuel Wesley (1766–1837)

Carrie Tuttle, M. Div., Parish Associate for Pastoral Care
Charlotte Nance-Allbright, M.A, C.C.E., Director of Christian Formation and Education
J. Patrick Murphy, M. Mus., Organist-Choirmaster, sabbatical leave
W. Thomas Jones, guest organist
**A Warm and Cordial Welcome** is extended to all who worship with us this Sunday. We hope in this service you will encounter the living Christ and experience the warmth of our caring family of faith.

**Cover Art:** First Presbyterian Church Communion Table Cross, Pat Scheible.

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**Join us for In-Person Indoor 8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship!** We are happy to welcome you to in-person worship in a safe and sacredly-distanced capacity in the Sanctuary on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. Your staff and the COVID-19 Re-Entry Task Force have developed the following plan. There will be two identical services offered—an 8:30 a.m. Inside In-Person Service and a 10:00 a.m. Live Streamed Service. The May 10:00 a.m. service will be available online, Facebook, and PhoneStreaming and have no in-person worshippers, except for Youth Sunday on May 16, and a baptism on May 23. Beginning June 6, we anticipate adding in-person worshippers at the 10:00 a.m. service. Please visit the website for more information.

**Live Telephone Worship**
To listen to the worship service, simply call 888-969-5508 at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. You will also be given an option of receiving a weekly call prior to each worship service.

Please help us and pass this information along to any church member or community member who would benefit from this opportunity.

**Live Video Streaming Service:** Boxcast will not only stream to our website at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings, but also to our Facebook page. The service will be available to view on our website and on the FPC Facebook page.

**Pastoral Care Information**
If you have a personal emergency, hospitalization, or pastoral care need, please call the church office. If it is after office hours or on the weekend, you may call the minister on call: 5/7-5/9 Carrie Tuttle (336-708-0451).

**John Knox Fellowship:**
Sundays, May 16, 23 and 30 - meeting by Zoom at 9:15 a.m. "A Brief Statement of Faith" led by Rev. Frank Covington. What if Presbyterians disappeared...or never existed? A three-session exploration, using as our guide A Brief Statement, one of the 12 documents in our denomination* Book of Confessions.

**Join the Enrichment Class** via Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. After a time of fellowship, we will dive into “Conversations: Feasting on the Word.” Contact Karen Carrouth for more information or to receive the Zoom link. All are welcome!

**Small Group Inside Gatherings and Meeting:** Beginning Monday, May 3, the church will be available Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and Monday – Wednesday, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. for meetings of less than 20 people. Each meeting must be scheduled with Kathleen Seagroves in the church office and all established protocol followed that includes social contacting.

**Local Mission Opportunity During the COVID 19 Crisis**
**Feed the Hungry Food Collection** - Our church can still reach out to help those in need by donating food. Collection boxes are located outside the church entrance adjacent to the main parking lot and all you have to do is drive by and drop off your food donation. Thanks for doing whatever you can!

**Andrews Elementary Book Drive:** Presbyterian Women will be collecting books for Andrews Elementary pre-k through 2nd grades during the month of May. Slightly used or new books please. Collection receptacles will be placed at the daycare entrance where our drive through is located. They will be collected daily and then taken to Andrews the first of June. These books are for summer reading and the kids really love having books of their own. Andrews and PW say thank you. Questions call Candy McCall or Lucy Kernodle.

**Lunch Bunch Book Club:** The FPC Lunch Bunch Book Club meets via Zoom on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 12 noon for a lively discussion. Our final book club pick for the program year is a fascinating read by Kathy Izard from Charlotte, North Carolina. The Hundred Story Home chronicles Kathy’s personal commitments to “do good and love well” and to follow a whispered call to bring “a home” to Charlotte’s chronically homeless. This personal memoir is a testament to how one person, with the help of others, can and does change the world. She invites readers to live out their own stories and in so doing, takes us on the first steps of her journey to find her own way home. She writes “I wrote The Hundred Story Home not to convince you to solve homelessness in your community but to help you solve the homelessness in you.” Join us for a discussion that is sure to prove interesting and moving.

If you have not been a participant but would like to join and receive the emails about the book club, including the Zoom address for meetings, please let Gayle Gunn know via email at gaylegunn@bellsouth.net.

**Youth Fundraiser:** The Youth Fundraiser has been postponed to Sunday May 23rd. All purchased squares for our Cow Patty Bingo are still valid and there are many more available! The livestream will take place starting at 3:00 p.m. and a link will be shared closer to the date. We hope you will join us as we wrap up another year of youth ministry at FPC! Squares may be purchased through Taylor or any member of the youth group. Thank you for your continued support of our young people!

**Pilgrimage to Jordan, Israel, and Palestine - February 2022**
We can now see the light at the end of the tunnel and future international travel is now a possibility! In light of that, Dr. Shive is planning a pilgrimage to Jordan, Israel, and Palestine for February 2022.

The trip will be from Friday, February 11 - Saturday, February 26, 2022. We will depart Charlotte and arrive in Amman, Jordan. We will then spend four days in Jordan, four in Galilee, three in Bethlehem, and three in Jerusalem. We will return to the U.S. out of Tel Aviv.

In planning this trip, Dr. Shive has worked directly with a travel agency in Bethlehem and can assure you of a trip that will inspire your heart and broaden your understanding of this land that we call holy. Please email Tracy Barker (reception@fpcburlington.org) for a copy of the itinerary and detailed trip information.

This tour will be limited to twenty people, so you will need to respond as soon as possible to secure your spot. A deposit is required by May 31.
Sunday, May 9
8:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service — Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Learning to Use My Bible — Patio outside Calvin Hall
9:15 a.m. John Knox Fellowship Meets
10:00 a.m. Worship Service — Live Streaming
5:00 p.m. Middle School and High School Youth Group Meets

Monday, May 10
Noon PW Circle #2 Meets — Calvin Hall
2:00 p.m. Furniture Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom
4:45 p.m. CDC Board Meeting via Zoom
8:15 p.m. UKIRK Meets via Zoom

Tuesday, May 11 - Salem Presbytery Meeting via Zoom
8:00 a.m. Lectio Divina Meditation Group Meets via Zoom
9:00 a.m. Andrews Elementary Food Packing — Calvin Hall
6:30 p.m. PW Circle #4 Meets

Wednesday, May 12
5:30 p.m. Re-Entry Task Force Meeting via Zoom
7:00 p.m. Enrichment Class Meets via Zoom

Thursday, May 13
9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom
4:30 p.m. Communications Team Meeting via Zoom

Saturday, May 15
10:30 a.m. Library Team Meeting — Resource Center
Noon Youths Sunday Rehearsal — Sanctuary

FPC Vision Statement
First Presbyterian Church recognizes that God is on the move, and our church, inspired by God’s Holy Spirit, will continue to grow in God’s love and the example of Jesus Christ as we minister to each other, the community, and the world. Guided by God’s calling for our church and each of us as individuals, we will advance God’s mission more fully by:

- Cultivating a nurturing community,
- Discovering new expressions of faith through worship and music while preserving holy traditions,
- Regularly assessing how we need to change in order to sustain our partnership with God’s mission for years to come, and
- Engaging in the spiritual, physical, and emotional work of God’s mission.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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Matthew 25 in the PC(USA): A bold vision and invitation

We are a Matthew 25 church! Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus’ teachings in Matthew 25:31–46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world. As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus: • Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed • Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color • Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor. To learn more and for ideas on how to get involved and do your vital part as a member of a Matthew 25 church, please visit pcusa.org/matthew25.