



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
508 WEST DAVIS STREET
BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 5, 2024

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

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

Aria in Classic Style

Marcel Grandjany (1891-1975)

Aiden Sowers, harp

CALL TO WORSHIP

O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good!

The steadfast love of the Lord is my comfort and joy!

Sing praises to the Lord our God!

With glad thanksgiving, we will praise God's name!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN – NO. 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

To love you and to love our neighbor, O God, is the essence of our calling

and the foundation of our discipleship,

but because such love is not always easy,

we have pretended that discipleship is about other things.

We have worked on having the right beliefs, and sound morals,

and we try to avoid the snare of sin.

But your summons to love, to live with a devotion to you and to others,
often goes ignored.

Make our hearts open to this holy calling,

that we might begin to reflect your divine love for the world,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Now hear our particular confessions,

offered in silence...

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Please join in reading
aloud those parts of the
service printed
in **bold**.*

*The congregation is
invited to reflect silently
during the Music for
Preparation as a time of
prayer and meditation.*

When this symbol ()
precedes an element of
the service, please rise
in body or spirit.*

*We lay before God our
own sins,
the sins and
brokenness of our
fellow worshipers,
the church universal,
and the world.*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Lord, Have Mercy (*Kyrie eleison*)

John Weaver (1937-2021)

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The astoundingly good news of our reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ frees our tongues to sing mighty praise to God.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Glory to God!

GELOBT SEI GOTT

Glo - ry to God! The heav'ns a - dore! Let earth re - sound God's
praise there - fore; Au - thor of peace for ev - er - more!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Michael Morgan

We exchange reconciling words and gestures among the people of God.

***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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER: Jordan Britton

SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISMS: Helen Jean and Oliver Newsome Britton

PRESENTATION

Elder: Gene Stewart

QUESTIONS TO PARENTS

Jordan and Katie Britton

1. Who is your Lord and Savior?
2. Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith and teach that faith to your children?
3. Do you intend your children to be Christ's disciples, to obey his word and show his love?
4. Do you promise through prayer and example, to support and encourage Helen and Oliver to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ?

QUESTIONS TO CONGREGATION

1. Do you, the members of First Presbyterian Church, in the name of the whole church of Christ, undertake with Jordan and Katie the Christian nurture of Helen and Oliver, so that in due time they may confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

2. Will you endeavor by your example and fellowship to strengthen their family ties with the household of God?

QUESTIONS TO THE CHILDREN

1. Will you be a friend to Helen and Oliver?
2. Will you let them know that they are welcome here?
3. If they get lost, will you show them the way?
4. Will you share stories and love of Jesus with them?

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

THE ACT OF BAPTIZING

INTRODUCTION OF HELEN AND OLIVER TO THE FAMILY OF FAITH

PRAYER

WELCOME AND CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Helen and Oliver are now received into the one holy catholic church through baptism. God has made Helen and Oliver members of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. I charge you to love them and to encourage them to be faithful disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With joy and thankfulness we welcome Helen and Oliver into Christ's church, for we are all one in Christ.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTTGART

Child of bless - ing, child of pro - mise, bap - tized with the Spir - it's sign,
with this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.

Text: Ronald S.Cole-Turner, 1980

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 *Large Print Pew Bible, pages 755-756*
Pew Bible, page 615

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

If Ye Love Me

Philip Wilby (b. 1949)

Chancel Choir

If ye love me, keep my commandments,
and I will pray the Father,
and He shall give you another Comforter,
that He may abide with you for ever;
E'en the Spirit of Truth.
And ye know Him, for he dwelleth with you,
and shall be in you.
I will not leave you comfortless.
I will come to you.

-John 14:15-18

Christian Baptism is the sign and seal of our initiation into the household of faith, and a symbol of inclusion in God's grace and covenant with the Church. In Baptism, we die to what separates us from God and are raised to newness of life in Jesus Christ. Baptism enacts and seals what the Word proclaims: God's redeeming grace offered to God's children of all ages. The Paschal Candle burns at baptisms to signify the Spirit and fire that John the Baptist promised to those who are baptized in Christ.

We listen for what God is saying to God's people through scripture, song, and sermon.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "Addressing our Joy Deficit"

Rev. Dr. Ed McLeod

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE – NO. 755

Alleluia! Laud and Blessing

WEISSE FLAGGEN

*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 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.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Our response to
hearing God's Word
includes singing and
saying what we
believe.*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: Richard Proutlx, Land of Rest

Lord's Supper
 During his ministry, Jesus shared meals as a sign of community and acceptance. As we gather for communion, know that you are welcome in this community and accepted at Christ's table.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

Greater Love Hath No Man

John Ireland (1879-1962)

Chancel Choir

Kelly Higgs Glenn, soprano

Kenneth Lee, baritone

Many waters cannot quench Love, neither can the floods drown it.
 Love is strong as death. Greater Love hath no man than this,
 that a man lay down his life for his friends.
 Who His own Self bare our sins in His own Body on the tree,
 that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.
 Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified,
 in the Name of the Lord Jesus;
 Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
 that ye should show forth the praises of Him

who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.
I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies, a living sacrifice,
holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
-Song of Solomon and St. John

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be -
low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a -bove, ye heaven-ly
host; Praise Fa -ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

BEARING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN – NO. 774

There Is Now a New Creation

STUTT GART

VOLUNTARY: Alla Marcia

John Ireland

Carrie Tuttle, M. Div., Temporary Acting Head of Staff

J. Patrick Murphy, M. Mus., Organist-Choirmaster

Charlotte Nance-Allbright, M.A., C.C.E., Director of Christian Formation and Education

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WARM AND CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all who worship with us. We hope in this service you will encounter the living Christ and experience the warmth of our caring family of faith. If you are not receiving the weekly e-newsletter, please feel free to pick up a copy today in the narthex and then contact the church office to be added to the weekly email list. If you are visiting with us and in search of a church home, we invite you to become a part of our church family here at First Presbyterian Church. Please let us know of your interest by way of the friendship register, or by speaking to a minister. The Church Office phone number is 336-228-1703.

TODAY, WE WELCOME THE REV. DR. ED MCLEOD to the pulpit. Dr. McLeod retired in May, 2023 after 19 years as Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh. He and his wife, Jenny, have two children and 5 grandchildren.

WE WELCOME HARPIST Aiden Sowers to worship today. Aiden is a senior at The University of North Carolina School of the Arts High School and a harp student of Jacquelyn Bartlett. He is a native of Cobbs Creek, Virginia and plans to attend Florida State University this fall on a full tuition scholarship, studying harp with Noël Wan (who played a concert here at FPC in February). During communion, Aiden will play *En bateau* (On the Boat) by Claude Debussy.

*God blesses and
sends us in mission
to the world.*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Session has called a Congregational Meeting following the May 12, 2024, 10:00 a.m. worship service for the purpose of hearing a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee.

LIVE VIDEO STREAMING SERVICE: *Boxcast* will stream to our website and Facebook page each Sunday morning.

LARGE PRINT HYMNS: Copies of today's hymns are available in the Narthex.

CHANCEL FLOWERS: are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Clark Saxon Leonard by Peggy Harrelson.

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 contact the minister on call: Carrie Tuttle (336-708-0451)

MAY MISSION GIVING FOCUS — WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER : Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the WRC. As the May monthly giving focus, you are encouraged to donate these items during the month. Full size shampoo, conditioner, body wash, full bar soap, women's deodorant, full size toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper, gallon sealable bags, and giftbags to place all the items in. Diapers are also appreciated (sizes 4, 5, 6, 7) and adult-sized pull-ups. Donations can be placed in the bin outside the Welcome Center/CDC doors or in the Welcome Center in the designated bin.

PW BIRTHDAY SALAD SUPPER AND INSTALLATION OF NEW LEADERS: Attention women of the church! You are invited to attend the Presbyterian Women (PW) Birthday Salad Supper and the installation of our new leaders on **May 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Witherspoon Room!** What is the Birthday Offering collected by PW? Presbyterian Women, Inc., the women's organization in PC (USA), uses the Birthday Offering to award grants to a maximum of five programs. Primarily making capital improvement projects possible, the Birthday Offering supports domestic and international ministries. Awards range from \$75,000 to \$150,000. Birthday Offering envelopes will be at each table for you to give as you are led to do so. Also, we are collecting books for children (ages 6-9) at Andrews Elementary School. Books will be given to the students, so they will have books of their own to read over the summer. These opportunities are meaningful ways to celebrate the blessings in your life.

Please flip through your recipes and bring a scrumptious salad to share: egg salad/deviled eggs, chicken salad, tuna salad, pasta salad, garden salad, vegetable salad, fruit salad, etc. One person from each circle will bring a sheet cake, so dessert will be covered. Can't wait to see you on May 6th for an enjoyable evening!

ENRICHMENT CLASS : Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in Room 228: The Enrichment Class will be discussing David LaMotte's book, *Worldchanging 101: Challenging the Myth of the Powerlessness*, on May 5th, 12th, and 19th during the Sunday School hour. Do you feel powerless to address the problems we face in our community, nation, and world? While challenging our misconceptions about how change occurs, LaMotte offers a new perspective that is encouraging, challenging, hopeful, and practical. Come join us!

LUNCH BUNCH BOOK CLUB: May's Lunch Bunch pick is book three in C.S. Lewis's fantasy series *The Chronicles of Narnia, The Horse and His Boy*. This is the story of two runaways who join forces and go on a desperate journey. They are looking to only escape their harsh and narrow lives but their journey together takes them into the center of a terrible battle. What results is the story of a "wild gallop for freedom." Those C.S. Lewis and Narnia aficionados will want to join this most interesting discussion on May 7 at noon in the John Knox Room.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Vacation Bible School is just around the corner - June 17-20 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. - and it is time to get our volunteers lined up. If you are able to assist with VBS in any of these ways, please let Charlotte Nance-Allbright know (callbright@fpcburlington.org or 336-228-1703 x 223).

Shepherd a group (guide the children from one room to the other);

Decorating (vision for what the spaces could be, assist with getting supplies, help on decorating day);

Shepherd/Driver for Mission Mania group.

CAMP FIRELIGHT: A SUMMERCAMP ADVENTURE WITH GOD- Vacation Bible School at FPCB June 17-20 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.



(optional dinner at 5:00 p.m. \$8 per person). Children 3 years (as of August 2023 and potty trained) to 5th grade will enjoy this opportunity for faith formation and fellowship. Join Firefly "Lu" each evening as we explore Psalm 53:3 through hands-on activities, music, and play. For more information or to volunteer, contact Charlotte Nance-Allbright (callbright@fpcburlington.org (336)228-1703 x 223) Scan the QR code to register

FURNITURE MINISTRY DON'T TRASH IT: Mark your calendars and plan to pick up a bag or two of linens to wash beginning Monday, May 20.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP IN MAY: Join your friends on Thursday, May 16 at 11:00 a.m. for a *Spring Extravaganza* featuring harpist Grace Wepner Ludtke, cellist Samuel Magill, and flutist Lucien Rinando as we celebrate a great season of Friendship. The program will be held in the Sanctuary with a lunch on the lawn. Please make your RSVPs by Monday, May 13 to pmurphy@fpcburlington.org or call the Church Office (336-228-1703).

ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND SUMMER BLESSINGS: The Fellowship Team invites you to the Ice Cream Social and Summer Blessings on June 2 at 4:00 p.m. in Shive Hall. This is for ALL ages! In addition to yummy ice cream provided by the Fellowship Team, you'll have a chance to write a blessing on a stud for the Habitat Unity Build, see what is happening at VBS "Camp Firelight," and write a note to children and youth who are participating in FPC summer camps. Folks who make homemade ice cream are invited to bring some to share (making and bringing ice cream is not required for attendance). Your RSVP to reception@fpcburlington.org is appreciated.

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CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 5

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Adults – Room 203, Room 228, and the John Knox Room
- 9:00 a.m. Sacred Art for Children
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. FISHin (Faith in Small Hearts) – Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Mission Team Meeting – Room 228
- 11:15 a.m. Mission Trip Planning Meeting – Room 122
- 4:00 p.m. Trip Meeting – Witherspoon Room
- 5:00 p.m. High School Youth Group – Room 406
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group – Room 403

Monday, May 6

- 10:00 a.m. PW Coordinating Council Meeting – Room 122
- 6:00 p.m. PW Birthday Salad Supper/Annual Meeting – Witherspoon Room

Tuesday, May 7

- 7:30 a.m. High School Dough Devotions – The Park (S. Church St.)
- 8:00 a.m. Walk and Talk – Shive Hall or Outside
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting – Room 122
- 7:00 p.m. BSA Troop 17 Meets – Garrison Joyner Activities Building

Wednesday, May 8

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study – Witherspoon Room
- Noon Labyrinth Small Group Gathering – Shive Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir End of Season Potluck

Thursday, May 9

- 9:00 a.m. Andrews Snack Pack Assembly – Witherspoon Room
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry – Room 201
- 11:30 a.m. Alamance Ministers' Meeting/Luncheon – Shive Hall



A Moment's Meditation

Then he said to them all, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it."

Luke 9:23-24 NRSV