WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

The music of the Opening Voluntary draws us from the outside world into the presence of God. In preparation for worship, you are invited to use this time for prayerful reflection.

OPENING VOLUNTARY
"Sonata in F Major"

George F. Handel

Beverly Andrews, violin
John Tabler, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

CALL TO WORSHIP: (from Psalm 32)
Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

HYMN 307
"God of Grace and God of Glory"
God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story, bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.
For the living of these days, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days.

CWM RHYONDDA
Cure thy children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness;  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.  

Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore.  
Let the gift of thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.

CALL TO CONFESSION  
Brothers and sisters, why do we confess our sin  
even on the day of resurrection?  
Because new life in the Risen Christ  
compels new life from us.  
But why do we do it together?  
Because we are a community,  
A covenant people of hope.  
Let us pray together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the  
power of sin and death. We confess that too often we remain captive  
to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook  
your suffering ones and abuse your good creation. We hide your  
good news and forget your claim on our lives. Forgive us, God of  
Mercy, and help us to trust your power to change our lives and make  
us new, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord... (our silent prayers of  
confession) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON  
Brothers and sisters, if for this life only we have hoped in Christ,  
We are of all people most to be pitied.  
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,  
The first fruits of those who have died.  
For as all die in Adam,  
So all will be made alive in Christ.  
Let us all believe this good news:  
In Jesus Christ, there is life eternal!
PASSING OF THE PEACE
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!
And also with you!

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Psalm 90
Pew Bible P. P. 547 - 548

SECOND LESSON
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Galatians 1: 13 - 17 - 2: 15 - 21
Pew Bible P. P. 187, 188

SERMON
“New Life in Christ”
Richard Aylor

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN 223
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
HAMBURG

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.
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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO
"Love at Home" Robert P. Manookin
There is beauty all around When there's love at home; There is joy in ev'ry sound When there's love at home. Peace and plenty here abide, Smiling sweet on ev'ry side. Time doth softly, sweetly glide When there's love at home. In the cottage there is joy When there's love at home; Hate and envy ne'er annoy When there's love at home. Roses bloom beneath our feet, All the earth's a garden sweet, Making life a bliss complete When there's love at home. Love at home; Kindly heaven smiles above When there's love at home; All the world is filled with love When there's love at home. Sweeter sings the brooklet by; Brighter beams the azure sky; Oh, there's one who smiles on high When there's love at home.

Jordon Hathaway, tenor

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

CHARGE & Benediction

CLOSING VOLUNTARY
"Allegro" Gioseffo H. Fiocco

\[ \text{Something}\]
Weekly Updates

THANK YOU to all of you who’ve joined us for worship this Sunday, here and at home. For the foreseeable future, we’ll be worshipping this way each week - some of us in person and some at home. Nevertheless, we are always one united body of Christ. A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. If you would, please let us know you were here with us by emailing our church office at hello@firstonthird.

STREAMING AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
We are now open to a limited number of people for in-person services for both the 9AM blended service in Gilmour Hall, and the 11AM Sanctuary service. Reservation links for both will be emailed Wednesday and will close at noon Friday, or when we have reached our current maximum capacity, whichever is sooner. We encourage you to reach out to others in your safe group’ to sign up together. The 11AM service will also be streamed on the church website and on Facebook.

YOUTH-DRIVEN TEXT DEVOTIONS: Have you added yourself to the text message weekly devotions group? An idea driven by youth, these devotions are for everyone and will help get your week off to a great start. If you would like to join this Remind thread, please text @fpcdaily to the number 81010. The messages will begin the week of April 12.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES – HELP NOW
Our service to others is an essential part of providing hope and support for our community members who may be struggling. Your time, donations, and special skills and talents are gifts to your neighbors, and make a positive impact on our community. For the most current opportunities and information, check the HELP NOW page of the church website. Please email questions or comments to Nikki McLaurin, nikki@firstonthird.org. Thank you!

HELP NOW - SHARE CAPE FEAR
Please visit Share Cape Fear at https://sharecapefear.org to learn of other meaningful volunteer and donation opportunities in our Cape Fear region to make it stronger!

ALL ABOARD the 'Rocky Railway’ Vacation Bible School 2021 is June 21-24 for kids from age 3 through fifth graders. A signup link can be found in the Saturday email and on the member page of the church website. Email Anna Martin, anna@firstonthird.org with any questions you may have!

THE FLOWER committee is asking for donations for the chancel. The donated flowers are then distributed to our homebound members. Please contact Emily Warren to reserve your Sunday. 910-617-3469.

COMING UP- SUMMER READING GROUP
We are excited to announce we will be reading Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson for our Summer Reading Group. This is a true story about a man wrongfully convicted of murder written by the man who represented him. If interested, email Pastor Richard at richard@firstonthird.org. There will be an informational session over zoom on Thursday May 20 at 6pm.