



First Presbyterian Church

Growing in Faith and Love

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

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

"Trumpet Tune"

Henry Purcell

Organ

"Passacaille"

George F. Handel

String Quartet

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

**Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing!**

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us and not we ourselves.

We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

**For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures
forever, his faithfulness to all generations.**

+HYMN 49

"The God of Abraham Praise"

LEONI

CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers and Sisters, why do we confess our sin?

Because all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.

But why do we do it together?

Because we are a community, a covenant people.

[+You are invited to stand. For each hymn, please stand as the last line of the introduction is played.]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit... (our silent prayers of confession) **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.

**God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth!
By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

+GLORIA PATRI (581)

GREATOREX

*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 PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!
And also with you!

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

[Worship and Wonder is for children ages 3 (by Aug. 31) through end of 1st grade.
Children will come forward, place their offerings in the plate, have a short message and prayer with the minister, then go to Room 208 for their service.]

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Mark 10: 17-27
Pew Bible p. 46

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Genesis 18: 1-15
Pew Bible p. 14

“You Did Laugh”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

+HYMN 308

NOEL

“O God in Whom All Life Begins”

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

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(11am)

“Rejoice in The Lord Always”

Henry Purcell

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Philippians 4: 4-7

Whitney Harrison, *alto* James Taylor, *tenor* Alex Gazda, *bass*

+DOXOLOGY (606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING 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.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

+HYMN 51

LLANFYLLIN

"To Abraham and Sarah"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



TODAY'S SERVICE

THANK YOU to all of you who have joined us for worship this Sunday, here and at home. We hope that you find your experience of worship to be uplifting and meaningful. Any usher (designated with a name tag) will be glad to assist you and answer your questions. If you need a large print copy of today's bulletin and hymns, please notify an usher. A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. If you would, please let us know you were here with us by signing the Friendship Register in the pews or by emailing our church office at hello@firstonthird.org

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Suzanne Gamble given by her son's Devin and Paul Gamble; and Pait Skipper.

The offertory anthem this week will feature a string quartet and a vocal trio by our own Whitney Harrison, James Taylor and Alex Gazda from the chancel choir. "Rejoice in the Lord Alway" by Henry Purcell is often referred to as the Bell Anthem. The introduction to this anthem uses descending scale passages to imitate the sound of peeling tower bells. Some day we will have a full carillon in FPC tower to play multiple descending scales and peels. The ability to play hymns and anthems from our tower allowing music to sweep over the citizens of Wilmington will be a beautiful sound to behold.

Leading in Worship:

Dan Lewis, Senior Pastor	Tracey Daniel, Associate Pastor
John Tabler, Director of Music	Benjamin Horrell, Choir Director
First Presbyterian Chancel Choir	Lucas Gerbe, violin
Hannah Sellars, violin	Carrie Jackson, viola
Kathy Birch, cello	

Blended Worship Gilmour Hall 9:00 AM

GATHERING MUSIC WELCOME CALL TO WORSHIP

+MUSIC

"Here I Am To Worship"

Tim Hughes

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Response: *Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen.*

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!
And also with you!

+HYMN 14

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

DIX

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

[Worship and Wonder is for children ages 3 (by Aug. 31) through end of 1st grade. Children will come forward, place their offerings in the plate, have a short message and prayer with the minister, then go to Room 208 for their service.]

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON

First Reading– Mark 10: 17-27

Second Reading– Genesis 18: 1-15

Dan Lewis

"You Did Laugh"

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

+MUSIC

"Every Promise"

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

BENEDICTION

SENDING MUSIC

Leading in Worship:

Dan Lewis, Senior Pastor

Phil Bevilacqua, Piano

Betsy Von Biberstein, Liturgist

Clay Zava, Guitar/Vocals

Doug Leess, Bass/Vocals

David DiMuro, Percussion

Ella Boyer, Vocals

HELP NOW–September Opportunities:

(Drop off @ the Donation Station)

Our **Congolese Refugee family** has an immediate need for household furnishings:

dressers, lamps, nightstands, sheets (queen and twin), towels, clothes hangers, eating and cooking utensils, plates, mugs, drinking glasses, pots, pans, kitchen storage plasticware

The upcoming **Youth Group Service Project** will benefit Help Hub's Winter Blessing Bags and The Foster Pantry's Birthday Bags. Gallon sized Zip Lock bags, Hand Warmer packs, Granola bars, Fruit cups, Individual packs of beef jerky, Individual packs of trail mix, 3-pk of Chapstick, 6 ct package of socks, Boxed cake mix, Icing, Aluminum/disposable cake pans, Small packs of candles, Party favors (hats, streamers)

The **Casserole Ministry** needs help in restocking the freezer. Please pick up a container or two from the basket in the Orange Street hallway, Fill with soups, casseroles or side dishes; complete the card information. and return to the freezer in the basement kitchen. With questions contact Trent Colbert.

Three Worship Services on Sundays through May

8:45am Traditional Service in the Kerian Chapel

9am Blended Service upstairs in Gilmour Hall

11am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

Weekly E-news: Would you like to subscribe to the weekly e-news? Reach out to the front office!

Looking Ahead– Calendar Snapshot

September

17th– Top Dogs: Geocaching at Longleaf Park (3– 4:30pm)

20th– Middle and High School Parents and Volunteer Information Session
(5:30-6:30pm Gilmour Hall)

22nd & 23rd– These Are Our Bodies ("These Are Our Bodies" is a faith-based, developmentally appropriate human sexuality seminar for current fifth graders and their parents.

24th– Youth Beach Reach (4-6pm– Wrightsville Beach)

27th– Fellowship Bingo Night for All Ages! Pizza, subs, and AMAZING prizes!
\$5 per person \$20 max for family (5:30pm- Gilmour Hall)

29th– Memorial Service and Reception for Emerson and Libby Willard (1:30pm)

October:

1st– World Communion Sunday

1st– Youth Group at Cameron Center (5:30-7pm)

7th– Presbyterian Women's Retreat (Gilmour Hall 9am– 3pm)

8th– Top Dogs Cooking Class (12-2pm at the Cameron Center)

8th– Youth Be The Light Service Project (5-7pm at the Harrelson Center)

9th– Circle 3 Meeting (10:30am– Gilmour Hall)

9th– Circle 1 Meeting (off site)

10th– Circle 4 Meeting (10am– Bride's Room)

15th– First At The Farm! (Williams Family Farm 3-6pm)

22nd– Installation Service for Tracey Daniel (4pm– Sanctuary)

22nd– Youth Group at Cameron Center (5:30-7pm)

29th– Kirkin O' the Tartan (11am Worship)

29th– Youth Group at Cameron Center (5:30-7pm)

Nursery care is provided for infants and toddlers during the worship service.

Worship And Wonder ages 3-1st grade. Please visit the church website (under the "Register" page) to sign up to help as a greeter or storyteller.

Top Dogs- Welcome to new and returning Top Dogs (3rd-5th graders)! We plan to get together once a month to have fun while including some devotions and learning what it means to live by Jesus's example.

Youth Group for Middle School and High School ages will meet on Sunday evenings at the Cameron Center. Upcoming youth dates in the snapshot above.

Adult Sunday School-

The **Bible and Breakfast Class** meets in Boney Hall in the Cameron Center. Families can come for breakfast beginning at 9:45am. Children will head off to their Sunday School classes and adults can stay for a 6 week study of the book "Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus" by AJ Levine.

The **Agape Class** meets at 9:45am in Room 101. We are a Bible Study class using "The Present Word" and led by dedicated members of the class.

The **Journey Class** meets upstairs in the Fire Place Room at 9:45am. Class will discuss the book 'The Jesus I Never Knew' by Philip Yancey.

Children's Sunday School– Ages 3 through fifth grade will meet John Tabler and Anna Martin at the Cameron center for Singing Sunday School.



If you would like more information about **Stephen Ministry**, please call one of our pastors, 910-762-6688, or Janice Clark, 910-228-8584.



ONLINE GIVING

Use this QR code to give to the general fund.

Looking for other ways to give? Visit the website, firstonthird.org/give, for more information.