



# First Presbyterian Church

*Growing in Faith and Love*

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 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

"Hommage à Frescobaldi"

Jean Langlais

Prélude au Kyrie

Offertoire

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We are called this morning to struggle together,  
**to turn every breath into a prayer to God.**

In this place, the Spirit of God tells us to hold on.

**We cry out for God's blessing.**

Let us be persistent in our prayers

**so that we might be refined into the image of Christ. Amen!**

## +HYMN 436

"God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us"

## O QUANTA QUALIA

## 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

Too often we wrestle and we struggle. With ourselves, with our friends and family, where we spend our time, and with the world around us. Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. You see us as we truly are, with our secrets and shames, our dreams and hopes. We crave your blessing and direction. We confess that we have walked in dark places and fallen short in trusting you. Forgive us when our actions convey that you are not enough for us. Help us to live our lives simply and faithfully, trusting in your steadfast love to provide all that we need...(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 14: 32-36

Pew Bible p. 52

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Genesis 32: 22-30

Pew Bible p. 30

“Wrestling with God”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

+HYMN 109

“Blest Be the God of Israel”

MERLE’S TUNE

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

"The Tree of Life"

(11am)

K. Lee Scott

*There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,  
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations;  
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty.*

*It's name is Jesus, name that says "Our Savior!"  
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;  
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.*

*Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;  
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! It lives! It's grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it.*

*See how its branches reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the voice says, " Come to me, ye weary!  
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow, I will give blessing."*

*This is my ending, this my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy.*

*All heaven is singing " Thanks to Christ, whose Passion  
offers in mercy, healing strength and pardon.  
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!" Amen! My Master!*

**+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 457**

WAREHAM

"How Happy Are the Saints of God"

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

"Procession"

Malcolm Archer



**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](mailto:hello@firstonthird.org)

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Chancel Choir members.

**Leading in Worship:**

Natalie Raygor, Associate Pastor

Dan Lewis, Senior Pastor

John Tabler, Director of Music

Benjamin Horrell, Choir Director

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

### Three Worship Services on Sundays through May

8:45am Traditional Service in the Kenan Chapel

9am Blended Service upstairs in Gilmour Hall

11am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

**Weekly E-news:** Are you like to subscribe to the weekly e-news?

Reach out to the front office!

### Looking Ahead– Calendar Snapshot

#### September:

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)

#### November:

5th (*Daylight Savings Time Ends/ All Saints Recognition/ Communion*)– Music At First:

Dan Forrest "Requiem for the Living" (Chancel Choir and Orchestra– 11am Worship)

5th– Ordination and Installation Service for Natalie Raygor (3pm– Sanctuary)

8th– Presbyterian Women's Service of Thanksgiving (5:30pm– Sanctuary)

12th– Music At First: AGO Organ Recital (5pm– Sanctuary)

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**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](http://firstonthird.org/give), for

## Blended Worship Gilmour Hall 9:00 AM

### GATHERING MUSIC WELCOME CALL TO WORSHIP

#### +HYMN 452

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

OPEN THE EYES

### 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 475

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

### 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 14: 32-36  
Second Reading— Genesis 32: 22-30

**Natalie Raygor**

**"Wrestling with God"**

### CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

#### +MUSIC

"10,000 Reasons"

Myrin/ Redman

### BENEDICTION

### SENDING MUSIC

#### Leading in Worship:

Natalie Raygor, Associate Pastor	Tracey Daniel, Associate Pastor
Phil Bevilacqua, Piano	Connie Hawkins, Liturgist
Clay Zava, Guitar/Vocals	Doug Leess, Bass/Vocals
David DiMuro, Percussion	

**Circle 1** is preparing **Exam Care Packages** to send to college, grad school, or boarding school students! Please provide your student's name and address to [share@firstonthird.org](mailto:share@firstonthird.org) so we can send them a care package! Deadline for this information is October 31st. We plan to gather the goodies and prepare the packages for mailing at our meeting on November 13 meeting, and mail shortly after.

#### HELP NOW—September Opportunities:

(Drop off @ the Donation Station)

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