

First Presbyterian Church

Lexington, North Carolina
Organized in 1827

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST October 10, 2021 - 11:00 AM

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ginger Briggs

PRELUDE

Prelude on "St. Columbia" (Op 101, No.6)

C. V. Stanford

Silent Prayer and Meditation:

*Goodness is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate.
Light is stronger than darkness. Life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours through Him who loved us.*

~Desmond Tutu

CALL TO WORSHIP

We give thanks to God, whose mercy reaches out to us

We draw near to the one whose love is ever ready to welcome sinners.

We rejoice that in Jesus Christ, God came to us with forgiveness,

and pointed us in the way of compassion and working for justice.

Though we fall short of God's glory, God redeems and loves us unconditionally.

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

*HYMN 293

This Is My Father's World

- This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.*
- This is my Father's world. Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

based on a prayer by John Bunyan (1628-88)

Often, O holy and righteous God,
we dare your justice,
mock your mercy,
jeer your patience,
slight your power, and
show contempt for your love.

We even say "I'm sorry" insincerely and confess our sin flippantly.

We plead your help

to own up carefully to how we have wronged you,
to admit honestly how we have grieved you,
to plead penitently for your mercy and pardon.

We beg your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Silent Prayer - (How have you disappointed God, others, or yourself?)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our shortcomings, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***RESPONDING WITH PRAISE:** *Gloria Patri*

#579

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.

WE HEAR THE WORD

CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

Dustin Jennings

ANTHEM

Kumbaya
Choir Women's Ensemble

arr. Sjolund

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

SERMON

Our Problem. Our Pain.

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION (What is God saying to you this morning through scripture, sermon, and song?)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***HYMN #386**

O For a World

1. *O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.*
2. *O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.*

3. *We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.*
4. *The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.*
5. *O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison)

From the PC(USA)'s *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.

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

**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.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Offerings may be mailed to the church at PO Box 586, Lexington NC 27293, or you may give online by
visiting our website (www.fpclexnc.com) and clicking on the red "Give Online" button. If you are present,
you may place your offerings into the designated containers in the Lobby and Narthex.*

***Doxology**

*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 Dedication**

**Dear God, wherever we look, from next door to a world away, we see the places where your creation
groans. May these gifts be a faithful response to those cries. Amen.**

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 420

God of Grace and God of Glory

1. *God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy pow'r.
Crown Thine ancient church's story, bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.*
2. *Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.*
3. *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.*
4. *Set our feet on lofty places; fill our lives that we may be
Strengthened with all Christ-like graces pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we fail our call from Thee.*
5. *Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the search for Thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving Thee whom we adore, serving Thee whom we adore.*

*BLESSING

2 Cor. 13:13

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Song of Hope

POSTLUDE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (We invite you to be seated for the Postlude.)
(Blaenwern) W. Rowland

* Those who are able may stand.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Whether this is your first time worshipping with us or you have been with us for years, we welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ. We are so glad you have gathered with us to give thanks to God and respond to Jesus' call to follow him. If you would like more information about our congregation, please speak with Pastor Nancy Dederer or one of our church leaders. Pastor Nancy can be reached at the church office (336/248-2140), by email at PastorNancy@fpclxnc.com, or by text or phone at 708/642-2742.

GUEST PREACHER

We welcome today our guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton, Dean of Wake Forest University's School of Divinity. He was invited by First Presbyterian Church's Race Unification Committee (RUC), with valuable help from Pastor Nancy.

Dr. Walton has served as dean of the School of Divinity, the holder of the Presidential Chair in Religion and Society, and the Dean of Wait Chapel at Wake Forest in Winston-Salem since 2019. He grew up in Atlanta and earned a bachelor's degree at Morehouse, a Historically Black College in that city, in 1996, the same year he was licensed to preach. He then earned a master's in divinity degree and a Ph.D from Princeton University Theological Seminary, on whose board of trustees he now serves. As a Princeton student, he served as pastor of a Presbyterian church in nearby Newark, New Jersey.

In 2006, he became an assistant professor of religious studies at the University of California. In 2010, he was hired as an assistant professor of African American religions in the Divinity School at Harvard University, where in 2012 he became Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in Harvard's Memorial Church.

Walton, a social ethicist, is the author of "Watch This! The Ethics and Aesthetics of Black Televangelism" (NYU Press, 2009). His second book, "A Lens of Love: Reading the Bible in Its World for Our World" (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018), explores the Bible from the perspective of the most vulnerable and violated characters toward developing a Christian social ethic of radical inclusion and human affirmation. He sometimes quotes longtime Morehouse College President Benjamin Elijah Mays on the concept of "One Love," arguing that loving God and loving one's neighbor are really the same love. He has been an outspoken advocate for civil rights and social justice and is often quoted as an expert in documentaries about religion and race and by national and international news media.

Among other activities in the Triad in the past 15 months, he has met and shared ideas with Salem Presbytery's Peace and Justice Task Force; served as keynote speaker for High Point University's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Worship Service; and interviewed Isabel Wilkerson, author of the book "Caste" on American racism, on Wake Forest's Face to Face Speaker Forum.

He is married to Cecily Cline Walton, a children's book author, with whom he has three children,

TIME AND TALENTS

If you have not yet completed and submitted a Time and Talent form, please do so as soon as possible. Extra forms are available in the church lobby.

ANNUAL CHICKEN PIE & BAKED SPAGHETTI SALE FOR LOCAL MISSIONS

Our annual Chicken Pie and Baked Spaghetti Sale to benefit local missions begins today! This sale helps us raise extra funds that can go directly and immediately to the local helping agencies we support. It is our hope for this sale to go beyond the membership of the church, so we encourage everyone to invite their neighbors, friends and coworkers to order.

Large chicken pies (which can serve 6-8) are \$14.00 each. Baked Spaghetti with Meat Sauce and Vegetarian Baked Spaghetti are both \$14.00 per pan. Orders of any combination of 3 or more of these large items reduces your price to \$13.00 per large item.

Small chicken pies (which can serve 1-2) are \$16 for a pack of four pies (must be sold as whole packs).

All chicken pies are "Moravian-style" (meat only, no veggies). Order forms are available at the church or may be downloaded and printed from our website (www.fpclexnc.com), and all orders must be paid for and submitted by October 31. Payment is due at the time orders are placed. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church.

Orders may be picked up Saturday, November 6 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm using curbside pickup, and Sunday, November 7 12:00-1:00 pm in the church fellowship hall. Thank you for your support of our local missions!

RESERVATIONS DUE TODAY! DINNER ON THE GROUNDS OCTOBER 17

If you have not made your reservation for our Dinner on the Grounds, please do so today. We will gather on Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 5:00 PM on the church lawn. In case of inclement weather, we will use the fellowship hall. We'll be serving up BBQ chicken with all the trimmings, provided by Wes Walser. There will be games for the kids, and a variety of music will be provided by The Gathering Band. The deadline to make your reservation is today, so please contact Jeanna at 336-248-2140 or office@fpclexnc.com to make your reservation, or complete the lime green card included in today's bulletin and drop it in the offering plate as you depart.

BUTTER BRAIDS NOW ON SALE

Our Preschool is selling Butter Braids through Monday, October 25th. Our contactless delivery date will be November 19, just in time to receive your fresh Butter Braids for the holidays.

This year, the following nine flavors are available: Four Cheese and Herb, Apple, Cinnamon, Cream Cheese, Strawberry Cream Cheese, Blueberry Cream Cheese, Caramel Rolls, Cinnamon Rolls with Cream Cheese Icing and Bavarian Crème with Chocolate Icing. All flavors of Butter Braids are \$15.00 per braid.

You may call in or email your order to Jeanna at office@fpclexnc.com or 336-248-2140, or feel free to contact Jane Blackerby at 336-248-2140 or jblackerby@fpclexnc.com to place your Butter Braid order. There is also an order form outside of Jeanna's office on the windowsill. Thank you, church family, for your continued support.

CHILD-SIZED PICNIC TABLES NEEDED

The Preschool is requesting donations of gently-used Little Tykes or other child-sized picnic tables. Because of the pandemic, we would like to have our students be outdoors as much as the weather permits and would appreciate help in acquiring child-sized picnic tables for this purpose. If you have a gently used item to donate, please contact Jane Blackerby, Preschool Director, at jblackerby@fpclexnc.com or 336-248-2140.

TECH ASSISTANTS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to help with livestreaming during the 11:00 service and/or running A/V equipment during the 9:00 service. Training is available! If you are interested in helping with either of these tasks, please contact Jeanna in the church office.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 7

All Saints' Day is November 1st. This is a day to remember all those who have died in the previous year. On Sunday, November 7, we will celebrate this holy day. It is a First Sunday, which means one service for everyone at 11:00. We will have Communion and pray with thanksgiving to God for those saints in our lives who have "entered the church triumphant" since last November 1st.

If you have a loved one you would like to list in our bulletin and newsletter, please send the information to Jeanna in the office at (office@fpclexnc.com or 336-248-2140) by October 27. Please include the name, date of death, and how you are related (grandparent, spouse, in-law, etc.)

Blessed are those who die in the Lord.

GRIEFSHARE

GriefShare is "help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend." First Presbyterian Church is hosting this program on Monday evenings at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall through December 20.

A video will be shown each week, addressing topics such as "Guilt and Anger," "Heaven," and "What Do I Do Now?" After the video, participants will be given the opportunity to share their experiences if they wish.

A workbook is available for \$15.00 but is not required. There is no additional cost for the program.

If you have questions, please contact program coordinator Maynard Edwards at 336-247-1287. Let us walk with you on the pathway through grief into hope.

TWO CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

We are still receiving the 2 Cents A Meal offering. Helping agencies within Salem Presbytery on a mission to combat hunger are eligible to apply for grants funded by monies received from this offering. In our community, Pastor's Pantry and the Crisis Ministry have both previously received hunger grants from the Presbytery. For those worshiping in-person, you may place your donation in one of the offering plates. For those worshiping virtually, you may drop your donation off at the church during business hours, or you may mail your check, made payable to First Presbyterian Church, to us at PO Box 586, Lexington NC 27293. Please note "2 Cents A Meal" in the memo line of your check.

OVERNIGHT STAYS AT THE HOMELESS SHELTER - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our church has resumed overnight stays at the homeless shelter on a scaled back schedule. We will be responsible only for the third Wednesday in each month for the time being. We have been assured that the Shelter is COVID-free and that the building is sanitized 3 times daily. Other churches are also now participating, and we hope that the men of the church will consider staying overnight so that we, as a church, may fulfill our commitment to the Shelter and our calling to help those in need. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the Faith in Action bulletin board outside the fellowship hall. You may also contact Jo Leonard to volunteer or with questions.

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Ministers	The People
Transitional Pastor	Rev. Dr. Nancy Jo Dederer
Interim Director of Christian Education/Formation	Mrs. Ann Kiefer
Director of Music	Mrs. Shelley Jennings
Interim Organist	Mr. Stan Grady
Financial Secretary	Ms. Alma Carlton
Preschool Director	Mrs. Jane Blackerby
Office Manager	Ms. Jeanna Carlton

THE SESSION

Class of 2022

Meredith Andrews	Jo Leonard
Beverly Black	Sammy McFarland
Jim Beall Graham	Phyllis McGee
Jan Greer	Bill McMurray
Jimmy Holshouser	

Class of 2023

Lynnae Benton	JoAnn Hill
David Durrell	Emelie North
Ryan Gobble	Jed Orman
Joy Harman	Katherine Team
Teresa Herman	



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