



First Presbyterian Church

Lexington, North Carolina
Organized in 1827

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
ASCENSION SUNDAY
May 29, 2022 - 10:00 AM**

Indented **BOLD** indicates everyone speaks.

* Indicates that those who are able may stand.

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pat Ulmer

PRELUDE

Jesus Shall Reign

arr. Berry

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Christ is risen! Alleluia! We rejoice in this good news that Jesus is victorious over the grave.

Christ is risen! Alleluia! And still, after hearing this good news, we wonder what to do?

Come, disciples of Jesus, and listen for his word to us in this time and place.

With joy and wonder, let us embrace our calling as beloved children.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN 423

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun (vss. 1, 4, 5)

1. *Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, 'til moons shall wax and wane no more.*
4. *Blessings abound where'er He reigns; the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blessed.*
5. *Let every creature rise and bring peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen!*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, we confess that we have not been faithful witnesses to the resurrection. Jesus stands among us in word, sacrament, and neighbor, but we fail to recognize him. Jesus reigns over us, but we fail to honor him. Jesus moves within us through the work of your Spirit, but we fail to respond.

God of grace, forgive us. Keep us in your presence, guide us by your Word, and fill us with your Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed! Amen.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION - (How have you disappointed God, others, or yourself?)

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE (responsive)

The promise of our faith is that we are deeply loved. The Risen Christ has already conquered all that separates us from God and each other. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

Glo - ry be to God, the Fa - ther. Glo - ry be to Christ, the Son.

Glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it. Glo - ry to the Three in One!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en! Praise to God whom we a - dore.

Al - le - lu - ia, sins for - giv - en. Light and life for - ev - er - more.

*Music: HYMN TO JOY [Public Domain]
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CHILDREN'S MOMENT

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of Layla Dawn Kiefer

Profession of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth;
 and in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again
 from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
 Almighty, from where he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting, Amen.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Act of Baptism

Welcome

Hymn 304

Jesus Loves Me!

1. *Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
 Little ones to him belong; They are weak, but he is strong.*

Refrain

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
 Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

2. *Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
 Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."*

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-11

SONG

Open Up the Heavens

Verse 1

*We've waited for this day, we're gathered in Your Name - calling out to You
Your glory like a fire awakening desire will burn our hearts with truth*

Pre-Chorus

*You're the reason we're here
You're the reason we're singing*

Chorus

*Open up the heavens we want to see You
Open up the floodgates a mighty river
Flowing from Your heart, filling every part of our praise*

Interlude

Oo oo oo oo oo

Verse 2

*Your presence in this place Your glory on our face - we're looking to the sky
Descending like a cloud You're standing with us now, Lord unveil our eyes*

Bridge

*Show us show us Your glory
Show us show us Your power
Show us show us Your glory Lord*

Ending

Oo oo oo oo

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

You Will Be Witnesses!

Rev. Dr. Nancy Jo Dederer

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*HYMN

Who'll Be a Witness for My Lord?

The congregation may stand and join in when indicated by the leaders:

I'll be a witness for my Lord. Oh, I'll be a witness for my Lord.

I'll be a witness for my Lord. My soul is a witness for my Lord!

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

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

Thank you for your support of our church. If you are worshiping in-person, you may place your offerings into the designated baskets in the narthex or lobby. If you are with us online, offerings may be mailed to the church at PO Box 586, Lexington NC 27293, or you may give online by visiting our website (www.fpcclexnc.com) and clicking on the red "Give Online" button.

Offertory

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies
Dustin Jennings, trumpet

arr. Fritchie

*Doxology 592

*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 (unison)

We give you thanks, generous God, for all the many gifts you have given us. Receive our offering this day as a sign of our love for you. Bless our gifts that they might be used to meet the physical and spiritual hunger of your beloved people through our mission and ministry. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 562

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

- 1. Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm has bound the restless wave,
Who bade the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee, for those in peril on the sea.*
- 2. O Savior, whose almighty word the wind and waves submissive heard,
Who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid its rage did sleep:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee, for those in peril on the sea.*
- 3. O Holy Spirit, who did brood upon the chaos wild and rude,
And bade its angry tumult cease, and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee, for those in peril on the sea.*
- 4. O Trinity of love and power, all travelers guard in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee glad praise from air and land and sea.*

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Song of Joy
(We invite you to be seated for the Postlude.)

Boodle

If you do not wish to keep your paper bulletin, please deposit it in the blue recycling bin as you leave worship today. Thank you!

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of all Veterans.

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. Visitor Information packets are in the Lobby, Narthex, and on the welcome table in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Nancy can be reached at the church office (336/248-2140), by email at PastorNancy@fpclexnc.com, or by text or phone at 708/642-2742.

The Mission of First Presbyterian Church, Lexington, NC:

*United in Christ, grounded in God's word,
First Presbyterian Church offers worship, learning,
and outreach experiences for all ages
so that we grow in our discipleship, care for community,
and commitment to serve.*

Our Vision

*First Presbyterian Church is the body of Christ
connected by our Spirit-given gifts, serving with God's love,
and transforming the Lexington Community
by meeting physical and spiritual needs.*

TODAY'S CELEBRATIONS

Today we celebrate the baptism of Layla Kiefer. Please make time to welcome our sister anew into our fellowship of faith.

SPECIAL PENTECOST SERVICE ON JUNE 5 AT SPECIAL TIME

Next Sunday, June 5, our Sunday worship hour will begin early at 9 a.m. so that we can send off our wonderful Acts Alive group on their summer work camp mission trip by showing the support of our entire FPC church family. We are so glad that these young people will have the opportunity to travel to Pennsylvania to offer their services in Christian mission after a two year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic.

The June 5 service will be held in the sanctuary at 9 a.m. with a special blessing for our Acts Alive members and their advisors as they begin their journey. This special event is intended to recognize and consecrate their commitment to the service of Christ in the world.

Worship will then continue as we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church, and share in the Sacrament of Communion. Red is the liturgical color for Pentecost, so consider wearing red on this special day! Red is a sign of the Holy Spirit and those tongues of fire that descended upon the believers and empowered them to proclaim the saving love of Jesus Christ to others.

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP ON JUNE 12

On Sunday, June 12, we will resume our normal summer worship time of 10 AM. This will be Pastor Nancy's last Sunday with us. Following the worship service, we will have time on the front lawn for the church family to say their good-byes and give their well-wishes to Pastor Nancy.

VBS 2022

Vacation Bible School will be held July 18-22, 9AM-12 PM, with a musical offering by the children on July 24! Our church will be transformed into a Jerusalem Marketplace, with children creating their own costume to play the part each day. Families interested in signing up your children or grandchildren may contact Jeanna in the church office (office@fpclexnc.com or 336-248-2140, ext. 1) or text Ann Kiefer (336-830-2752). Adult volunteers are welcome to join the fun as well!

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. In 2021, our congregation donated \$1804.68 to this important offering.

For those worshipping in-person, you may place your donation in one of the offering plates. Envelopes for this purpose are located near the offering plates. For those worshipping 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.

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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
Organist	Mrs. Regina Pozzi
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



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