



First Presbyterian Church

New Bern, North Carolina

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

30 January 2022
4th Sunday after Epiphany

Worship for the Lord's Day

Prayer of Preparation

God of life, death, and resurrection, we are grateful for life and all its gifts.

Increase in us the stuff that life is made of

— faith, hope, and love, but especially love—

*that we may abide with you eternally through Jesus Christ,
our love and our lord. Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

The Bright and Morning Star

Stairs

Introit

Live in Charity

Latin 8th c./Taizé/Berthier

***Call to Worship**

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth, come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown. Let us worship God!

Anthem

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

1871/Havergal

Prayer of Confession

**God of life, we admit to you and to each other
that we have not always lived lives of love.
We have lost patience and been rude.
We have been irritable and insisted on our own way.
We have even let love end.**

(Pause for a time of silent confession)

**Forgive us and heal us, dear God,
through Jesus Christ, your love incarnate. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

Matthew 22:37-39

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

(11 am) Children’s Moment

The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal p. 35

*2nd-grade children or younger may depart for Children’s
Worship and Wonder in the Ministry Center*

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

***Affirmation of Faith**

from a Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**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.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Anthem

Though I May Speak

Hopson/English melody

Welcome of New Members

(11 am) **Celebration of Tommy Hall**

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Rodger Wilcox and Lucy Andre to the glory of God and in memory of Kathy Kinsey Wilcox and Bob Andre.

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are also given by Marcy Latteman to the glory of God and in loving memory of her parents, USN Capt. Richard R. Long, also AIA, and Virginia "Ginny" Long.

*The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends
of Margaret Hackney who died on January 26.*

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Benediction

Postlude

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Piutti

If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the wooden collection boxes nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.

The prayer of preparation and prayer of confession is from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1* © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press.

The call to worship is © Presbyterian Outlook, 2022. Liturgy was written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution.

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Betsy Conzelman (11:00), Margaret Cooper (8:30)

Beth Foley (8:30), Susan Mabie (11:00)

Mildred Moore Lopez, Pat Kerr Rowlett

**To see art focused on
and inspired by
today's scripture
reading,
look here:**



WELCOME VISITORS! Please write your name on a visitor's badge for your blouse or lapel. Along with our members, please sign the Friendship Pad when passed to you during the service.

CHILDREN are welcome at First Presbyterian Church. The nursery is available for infants and preschool children in Room 1.23 in the Ministry Center from 8:15 am-12:15 pm. Following the Children's Moment, those in the 2nd grade or younger may depart for Children's Worship and Wonder in the Ministry Center. For all children in worship, there are worship bags available at the front and back of the Sanctuary.

RESTROOMS are available in the Ministry Center, (including a family restroom), the Session House, and the Fellowship Center.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES with ear coverings are available. Please ask an usher if you have need.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY is provided by ramps between the Ministry Center and the Sanctuary, in the back of the Ministry Center, along the side of the Session house, and at the front and side entrances of the J. Murphy Smith Fellowship Center.

MASKS are required in the Sanctuary for the time being. At a meeting of the Worship Commission on December 22, it was decided to return to a mask requirement for worship and to put a pause on singing by the choir and the congregation. We hope that this will be a short-lived pause until we have a better grasp of the effects of the Omicron variant. As always, if you have had exposure to someone with Covid-19 or have symptoms that indicate possible Covid-19 infection, we hope you will either receive a negative test before coming to worship or choose to worship online via video or podcast. These changes to our Covid-19 response are communicated by email and will be shared on our website and Facebook page. If you'd like to be added to this email list, please contact cathy@firstpresnb.org or visit firstpresnb.org/communications (scroll to the bottom of the page).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating Tommy Hall

TODAY, January 30, we will be celebrating Tommy Hall's retirement during the 11:00 worship service and afterward at a reception in the Session House. The time of fellowship in the Session House will be masked, but there will be some treats to-go. If you are unable to attend the reception but would like for us to share your words of congratulations and thanks with Tommy for you, just email anna@firstpresnb.org and your email will be printed out and shared with him.

Celebrating Amber Zapffel

Sunday, **February 6**, we will celebrate Amber Zapffel's ministry with us as she moves on to her career in real estate. We are also planning a reception in the Session House to be held after the 11:00 worship service. Again, if you cannot be there but have something you'd like to share with Amber to say thank you and wish her well, just email me at anna@firstpresnb.org and we will make sure she receives it!

Youth Fellowship

JOY (Just Older Youth), our youth fellowship for middle and high schoolers, meets tonight 5:30-7:30 pm in the Session house.

Adult Choir Rehearsals are currently on hold until further notice. Pat and Susan will communicate with each choir about rehearsals. Thank you for your patience.

Preschool Registration Opens February 1!

Registration for the 2022/23 School Year opens to current students and church members on February 1 and opens to the public on February 16. Classes range from infants (6 weeks and older) to Pre-K, and before and after-school programs are available. Please complete and return the registration form, media release form, and financial form with a check or money order for your registration fee to Preschool Director Kerri Wheeler (firstpreskerri@gmail.com). Scholarships are available! Forms are available on the preschool website (firstprespreschool.info) under "forms."

Financial Administrator

First Presbyterian Church is seeking a Financial Administrator. The Financial Administrator supports the mission of the church by working closely with the pastors, church treasurer, and the Budget and Finance Committee to ensure good stewardship of the church's financial assets by receiving and processing all incoming monetary contributions and other cash receipts, by maintaining accurate financial records and reports, and by disbursing funds in compliance with controls established by the Treasurer and Budget and Finance Committee to safeguard the church's funds. The position completes the payroll and compiles tax-related documents pertaining to employees. It also tracks tuition and fees for the Preschool. The Financial Administrator is supervised by, and answers to, the Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. It is a full-time position that includes benefits. Due to sensitive contribution information, it is the practice not to hire current church members. Please contact David Taylor, Personnel Committee Chairman (cdtaylor695@gmail.com), if you know a qualified person who would be interested.

Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

The church is also looking for a Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. That person will support the mission of First Presbyterian Church by developing and nurturing a youth ministry, overseeing children and youth education, and creating a family ministry that integrates young families into the congregation in a meaningful experience that includes worship, study, fellowship, and service to our members and the community. The position is supervised by the Associate Pastor, and it is a full-time position with benefits. The duties of the position include but are not limited to the following:

- Develop Youth Groups' activities that attract individuals and focus on Christian fellowship and service to the church and community
- Develop and oversee the Children's and Youth Ministry Christian education programs of the church, and
- Create a family ministry involving young families in the congregation in meaningful activities including worship, study, fellowship, and service.

Please contact David Taylor, Personnel Committee Chairman (cdtaylor695@gmail.com), if you know a qualified person who would be interested.

Help Out with Habitat – Meals Needed

Habitat for Humanity is excited to welcome the following schools this spring for Collegiate Challenge alternative spring break: Sacred Heart University (Connecticut), Franklin Pierce University (New Hampshire), Eastern Connecticut State University, Elmhurst University (Illinois), University of Delaware, and Hartwick College (New York). Help us demonstrate some southern hospitality through food and fellowship. Location will be updated closer to the date, but most likely all sites will be in the Pembroke community. If you would like to provide lunch or dinner for these students, have a desire to host students at your home or a restaurant, or provide a gift card, you can reach out to Catherine Campbell directly (ccampbell@cravencountyhabitat.org OR 252-633-9599, ext. 104). If you are able, please plan to stick around for fellowship after dropping off a meal.

An Evening to Celebrate Women: Habitat for Humanity of Craven County

International Women's Day will be celebrated by Habitat for Humanity of Craven County with a "Perceiving Strength" Tea & Fundraiser event on **Tuesday, March 8, 2022**, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Harrison Center on Middle Street. In addition to tea served in beautiful teacups, and a selection of delicious pastries and finger sandwiches, a silent auction will offer an opportunity to bid on a variety of great items. Tickets are \$25 per person, or \$200 for a table of 8 guests, and can be purchased by contacting Catherine Campbell at Habitat for Humanity at 252-633-9599, ext.104, or ccampbell@cravencountyhabitat.org. Additional donations, or Regrets with a donation, are always welcome.

Education

Sunday School classes meet Sundays 9:40-10:40 am

Sunday School for Children

Preschool – active play in the Nursery

Kindergarten-5th Grade – Ministry Center Room 1.27 (Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living).

Middle & High School – Ministry Center Room 2.23-24 (Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living).

Sunday School for Adults

Praying in Color/Sue Callahan – Library (Second floor of the Ministry Center)

Maybe you love color. Maybe you are a visual learner, a distractible or impatient soul, or a word-weary pray-er. Perhaps you struggle with a short attention span, a restless body, or a tendency to live in your head. The prayer practice “Praying in color,” by Sybil MacBeth, invites your hands as well as your mind into prayer and gives you a new way to be with God. Join us starting **TODAY** for a three-week class that explores various ways doodling can be used to pray for others and ourselves. No art experience is required, and supplies will be provided. For more information contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org)

The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor

The class is currently studying the series “Justice, Law, History” in Old Testament texts. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

Getting Old – Growing Gracefully/Lloyd Griffith – Ministry Center Room 2.21 and Zoom

“The laws of nature that dictate sundown dictate our demise.” This final part of our journey raises inevitable questions: What is our relationship with the younger generation? What is truth? What is the connection between work and vocation? How can I stay engaged with the outer life? How can I stay engaged with the inner life? Where do I go when I die? How we respond to these built-in

concerns is ours to choose. We can answer this inevitable aging process with denial or defiance and find ourselves on a passage of decline and inaction. OR...we can collaborate faithfully with this unique section on the arc of life and find ourselves on a different passage of engagement and discovery of a Holy energy holding and guiding us along the path. This Sunday School class meets at 9:40 am in room 2.21 (large center classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center) and **on Zoom**. We will be guided through these challenges of the journey by Parker Palmer's "On the Brink of Everything, Grace, Gravity and Getting Older." Please contact the church office or Lloyd Griffith to register for this class. Inquiries welcome!

Law and Religion/James R. Copland – Session House Main Room

America's original constitution did not expressly cover the relationship between church and state. But the Bill of Rights—insisted upon by some states, including North Carolina, as a precondition for joining the union—led off with it: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This course will cover the historical background framing the First Amendment's religion clauses; the evolution of Supreme Court doctrine interpreting them, and modern cases and controversies. Copland is formerly a Coker Fellow in constitutional law at the Yale Law School, but the course is intended for a general, rather than a legal, audience. Where appropriate, Biblical interpretation and discussion will be incorporated to augment the discussion of law. This class meets at 9:40 am in the Session House Main Room.

Mid-Week Formation Opportunities

Monday Evening Women's Bible Study

The group meets on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM via Zoom. Join us as we read *It's Not About Me* by Max Lucado, a well-known pastor and prolific author, familiar to many in our congregation. Lucado cautions us against living in a "me-centric" universe, which keeps us from flourishing and helping others to flourish in the "God-centric" realm in which all of us are called to live and to serve. For more information or to get on our list, please call Marice Debruhl 637-5468 (h), Cathy Wingfield 828-767-0975 (c), or Wendy Moeller 876-7259 (c).

Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support

The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Chapel. This ongoing group provides its members with companionship, understanding, support, and guidance as we seek to go on living when someone we love dies. All are welcome. Come and bring a friend. Contact Lloyd Griffith for more information.

Life of Prayer: The Practice of Contemplative Living

Led by Lloyd Griffith on Wednesdays noon-1:00 pm and meets in Ministry Center Room 2.21 and by Zoom in a hybrid format. The group will be studying "Soul Force" by Lloyd Griffith and "Immortal Diamond" by Richard Rohr.

Wednesday Evening Contemplative Worship

Led by Lloyd Griffith and meets in the Chapel in the Ministry Center. This contemplative, or reflective, approach to worship is offered each Wednesday from 5 to 5:30 pm. This quiet service is focused on silence, prayer, and reflection on the Biblical text chosen for preaching the coming Sunday. The Lord's Supper is observed on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Come when you can and bring a friend.

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study – NEW BOOK

We are starting a new book on Thursday, **February 10**, and running for 3 weeks: "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis. Our Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study meets weekly 10-11 am by Zoom. The book is available for purchase on Amazon (Kindle version also available). If you need help acquiring the book or want to be added to the email list for the class, please contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

Sunday Afternoon Men's Beer and Theology

The next gathering of Men's Beer and Theology ("Calvin and Hops") will meet at Brewery 99 (1014 Pollock St) at 4:00 pm, Sunday, **February 20**, led by Ken Wilkins. This is a casual men's gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith. Don't let any bad weather stop you from coming – there is a nice indoor space for gathering!

Special Offering: 2022 Faith Build Information Session by Catherine Campbell - Library (Second floor of the Ministry Center) - February 20

The 2022 Habitat for Humanity Faith Build is starting in February! It is an opportunity for service and relationship-building in our community. On Sunday, February 20, 9:40-10:40 in the Library, Catherine Campbell, the Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity, will walk through a history of Habitat for Humanity, how we make an impact in our community, and what volunteering looks like for all ages and abilities as the Faith Build begins. The ground-breaking and community breakfast will take place on Saturday, February 26 at 9 am.

Special Offering: Suicide Prevention by Madison Crum - Library (Second floor of the Ministry Center) - February 27

Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention offers hope for those in crisis and for those who have been impacted by suicide. This presentation by Madison Crum will discuss suicide research and prevention techniques for both individuals and the community. The discussion will also offer suggestions on regaining a sense of hope after losing a loved one to suicide.

Flowers for Church

Would you like to celebrate your sweetheart, a birthday, an anniversary, or honor a loved one who has passed? There are some dates available in February and April to provide flowers for the church. The sign-up sheet is in a pink folder in the Narthex.

*Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes a covenant with all believers,
First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all.
All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership
regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity,
economic or educational status, or political affiliation.*