

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

16 October 2022

The 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## Prayer of Preparation

*Eternal God, you remain constant through all of our striving, and patient with our ceaseless prayers. We seek your wisdom, yearn for your justice, and crave your blessing, for our own sakes and for the sake of the world. By the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Christ, who prays with us. Amen.*

## Welcome

## The Chiming of the Trinity

## Introit

*We Are Standing on Holy Ground*

G. Davis

## Call to Worship

from Psalm 121

From where does our help come?

**Our help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**

Who keeps us in our going out and our coming in?

**The Lord is our keeper.**

Who is with us always?

**The Lord Jesus Christ is with us  
and for us in all things.**

## Hymn 211

Hear, O Lord, My Plea for Justice Morgan/Sacred Harmony 1799



1 Hear, O Lord, my plea for jus - tice; lis - ten  
2 Test my heart for its af - flic - tion; pu - ri -  
3 Keep me, Lord, in sure pro - tec - tion, as the  
4 In its wake, send vin - di - ca - tion; to its



to my heart - felt prayer. In your just de -  
fy my soul with fire; let my mor - tal  
ap - ple of your eye. Shel - ter me be -  
dark - ness, show your face. Bring me to my



lib - er - a - tion may I find re - demp - tion there.  
tongue speak wis - dom, righ - teous - ness be my de - sire.  
neath your shad - ow when my hour of death draws nigh.  
res - ur - rec - tion clothed in gar - ments of your grace.

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,  
in Jesus, our risen Lord, we have seen your glory.  
Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ.  
We are quick to accuse and slow to confess.  
We find faults easily in others while ignoring our own shortcomings.  
We have squandered your gifts.  
We have turned from your ways.

*(pause for a time of silent confession)*

Have mercy on us, **compassionate God.**  
**Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives.**  
**Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace that day by day we might move  
closer to the people you would have us be. 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.’”**

## Prayer for Illumination

## Scripture Reading

Luke 18:1-8

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

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and our neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us the courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. 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.**

## Anthem

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Scriven/Converse

## Prayers of the People 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**

## Benediction

## Response

*May the God of Hope Go with Us* Schutmaat/Argentine melody

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Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Ensemble: Members of the Resurrection Singers  
Winston Dixon, bass

The prayer of preparation is from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press

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**THE WEEK AHEAD**

<b>Sunday, Oct. 16</b>	2:00 pm	Rothermel Lecture – Dr. Stanley Riggs
	5:30-7:30 pm	SALT and Youth Group (grades 3-12)
<b>Monday</b>	12:00 pm	Divorce Recovery Group
	12:00 pm	Divine Sleep Yoga Class
	2:00 pm	Knit 4 Others
	3:45-5:00 pm	Covenant Choir (grades K-5)
	7:00 pm	Women’s Bible Study (via Zoom)
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 am	Program Staff Meeting
	10:30 am	Full Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Worship Commission
	6:45 pm	Presbyterian Women Circle 3
<b>Wednesday</b>	12:00 pm	Life of Prayer
	3:30 pm	Outreach Commission
	5:00 pm	Contemplative Worship
<b>Thursday</b>	5:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Daybreak & Sanctuary Choirs)
	5:30 pm	Budget and Finance
<b>Friday</b>		No Preschool – teacher workday
	4:00 pm	Deadline for Newsletter Items

<b>Saturday</b>	6:30 am	Youth depart for Busch Gardens Trip
	11:30 am	Wedding
<b>Sunday, Oct. 23</b>	8:30 am	Worship
	9:15-10:15 am	Fellowship Café (Ministry Center)
	9:40-10:40 am	Sunday School
	9:40 am	Zeb Hough RCS Presentation
	11:00 am	Worship
	12:00 pm	Youth return from Busch Gardens Trip
	2:00 pm	Church Building and History Tour

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Rothermel Lecture – October 16 – 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary**

Dr. Stanley Riggs, Research Professor of Geology at ECU will speak on *Sea Level Change in Eastern North Carolina: Past, Present and Predicted*.

**Church Building Tour and History Presentation – October 23 – 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary.** Led by Jerry Elliott. Jerry will present a history of the First Presbyterian Church. Meet at the New Street entrance to the Sanctuary.

#### **Fall Festival – October 30 – 12:00-2:00 pm at the J. Murphy Smith Center**

Families are invited to wear Halloween costumes to worship and bring trick-or-treat buckets. There will be food, games, and activities for the whole family! If you would like to donate candy or prizes, they can be dropped off at the church office.

#### **Lunch Wagon Outing to Mike’s Farm – November 20 – 2:00 pm (returning 8:30 pm)**

The trip will include a family-style meal, a 30-minute hayride, and time to visit the bakery and Christmas shop. Cost: Seniors 56 and over \$34, Adults 12 and over \$35, Kids 7-11 \$25, kids 5-6 \$22, kids 3-4 \$12, kids under 3 free. **Sign Up Deadline is November 10!**

#### **Lunch Wagon Outing to Chinese Light Festival in Cary – December 1 – 1:45 pm**

We will be attending the Twilight Tour beginning at 4:30 and ending by 6:00. We will have dinner at a restaurant after the tour (self-pay), and return to New Bern between 10-11:00 pm. Admission is \$25.80 and sells out quickly. **Sign Up Deadline is October 18.**

### CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

#### ❖ **9:40am-10:40am: Sunday School: Follow Me: Make Peace**

Children (Grades K-5) in Ministry Center Room 1.24

Youth (Grades 6-12) in Ministry Center Rooms 2.23-24

#### ❖ **Family Camp – November 11-13 – Arapahoe, NC.**

Need a weekend away? Camp Caroline is equipped with plush cottages, sightly rustic cabins for our teens, cozy fire pits, and waterfront access to kayaks and canoes. We will fellowship, study, play, and worship together. Contact Catherine to register.

*If you are interested in a detailed calendar of upcoming Children, Youth, and Family Ministry opportunities, or volunteering, please reach out to Catherine Campbell, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry:*

[catherine@firstpresnb.org](mailto:catherine@firstpresnb.org)

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

*Sunday Mornings, 9:40 am-10:40 am*

### **The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor**

The class will be studying “God’s Exceptional Choice” for the fall. Contact George Evans with questions.

### **Early Christianity to the Reformation – October 16 and 30, November 6, 13, 20**

Taught by Chip Chagnon. The class meets in the Owl Room and will be covering the history of Christianity from Jesus’ ministry to the onset of the Reformation.

### **Zeb Hough, Executive Director of RCS – October 23**

RCS is one of our longstanding outreach partners. Come hear Zeb talk about where Religious Community Services (RCS) is and where God is calling it to go. He will also be the guest preacher on October 23!

### *Midweek Opportunities*

#### **Monday Evening Women’s Bible Study**

We will meet Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 via Zoom and are reading *Neglected Voices: Biblical Spirituality in the Margins*, by John Indermark (available on Amazon). For more information, contact Wendy Moeller at 252-876-7259 or Marice Debruhl at 252-617-8557. To be placed on the Zoom list, contact Cathy Wingfield at 828-767-0975.

#### **Divine Sleep Yoga class**

Taught by Diane Elliott and offered on Mondays, 12:00-1:00 pm in the Lighthouse. Participants may bring a prop, such as a yoga mat and blanket for comfort. Contact Diane with questions (410-507-5508, [dianeelliott0@gmail.com](mailto:dianeelliott0@gmail.com)) The class is free, but donations are accepted.

#### **Rebuilding – Divorce Recovery Group**

This group (3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays) hopes to be just the right balance of a shoulder-to-cry-on and a kick-in-the-pants to support. The next meeting is Monday, **October 17**.

#### **Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support**

The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month (the next meeting is on **November 8**) from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Chapel. Come and bring a friend.

#### **Life of Prayer: The Practice of Contemplative Living**

Led by Lloyd Griffith on **Wednesdays, noon-1:00 pm**, and meets in the Ministry Center Owl Room and by Zoom. The group is studying *Intimacy with God*, by Thomas Keating.

#### **Contemplative Worship - Wednesday evenings, 5:00-5:30**

Led by Lloyd Griffith, this service in FPC’s chapel is focused on silence, prayer, and reflection on Biblical text. The Lord’s Supper is observed on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.