



*Water flowing from the font*

17 October 2021  
21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

*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 people. 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.*

# Order of Worship

## Prayer of Preparation

*We give you thanks and praise, O God,  
that you have called us to this place  
to hear the promise of your holy word,  
to be immersed in the font of your grace,  
and to drink the cup of your blessing.  
Draw us deeper into your presence  
and send us out to love and serve;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Welcome

## The Chiming of the Trinity

**Prelude**      *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*      J. Wyeth  
arr. Jason Tonioli

**Introit**      *Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord*      Cameroon song

**\*Call to Worship**      Psalm 104

Praise the Lord, for God is great indeed!  
Let us sing praises for God's glorious works.

**We give glory, honor, and thanksgiving to the Lord,  
who makes and sustains all things.  
Let us worship God!**

**Anthem**      *Here I Am, Lord*      Schutte/arr. S. Pethel

## Confession

**Merciful and gentle God, we have wanted reward  
without sacrifice. We have been unwilling to serve and  
have not humbled ourselves in obedience. Forgive our  
hubris, gracious God. Correct our willful ways and help  
us to know your glory through servanthood. Guide us to  
be true followers of your way, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

**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**

Pat K. Rowlett

Hymn 175, verse 1

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!**

Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal p. 35

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

Hymn 175, verse 2

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;  
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Lesson**

Mark 10:35-45

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

**\*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.**

**\*Hymn 441** *Hear the Good News of Salvation* Dakota text/1813

**Minute for Stewardship**

Jim Finley

**Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Heather Harley to the glory of God and in memory of her mother, Joanne Harley.*

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

O Lord, plead our cause. **Your name is good.**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Come, Christians Join to Sing* arr. Hal Leonard

**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 Session has approved a special offering for Haiti Relief.**

**If you would like to give to this simply note "Haiti Relief" on your check or in the notes for electronic giving.**

Prayers reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.

The photo on the cover is of the baptismal font at Salisbury Cathedral and was taken by Father James Bradley. Used with permission.

Liturgist: The Rev. Lloyd Griffith

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Ensemble: Resurrection Singers

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. Beginning at 9:30 am the nursery is available for infants and preschool children in Room 1.23 in the Ministry Center. 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Church Nursery**

Our Nursery, located on the first floor of our Ministry Center has resumed regular hours (8:15 am-12:15 pm). We have a team of paid, trained, and background-checked nursery workers to care for infants and preschool-aged children during Sunday school and both worship services. Stop by and say hi to our new nursery workers Cindy and Kimberly and Carolyn, and our nursery coordinator Bailey.

### **Fellowship Café Open for Fall**

Join us from 9:30 until 10:45 am in the Fellowship Café (on the first floor of the Ministry Center) for a cup of coffee, a bite or two, and to renew your church friendships, or stop by and grab a coffee on your way to Sunday School!

**Confirmation Choir** (grades 6 through 12) will begin rehearsals this afternoon at 5:00 pm. Members will remain masked while we practice. We are so glad to be back together after such a long time.

### **Youth Fellowship**

JOY (Just Older Youth), our youth fellowship for middle and high schoolers, and SALT (Serving and Learning Together) for 3rd-5th graders will meet tonight from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Session house. Stay tuned for information to come about the Christmas Wreath Fundraiser!

### **Library Open House Today!**

You are cordially invited to the Grand Opening of the recently relocated William Lee Hawkins Library and the adjacent Children's Library, both located on the second floor of the Ministry Center, TODAY, Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, before and after Sunday School (following the first service and preceding the second service). Light refreshments will be served. Please come and find that book you've been wanting (or needing) to read. Our "twin" librarians will be available to answer questions or offer suggestions.

### **Fellowship Meal**

Mark your calendar for our November Fellowship Meal on **Wednesday, November 3, 2021**, in the Fellowship Center. A Thanksgiving-themed meal will be served including turkey, ham, dressing, green bean casserole, and other traditional holiday favorites. The meal will be served from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Takeout meals will be available beginning at 5:30 pm for immediate pickup.

Please email or call the Church to indicate your intentions to attend no later than **5:00 pm, October 31, 2021**. If you know that you would like take-out meals, please let us know. We look forward to seeing you on November 3, 2021. Your Fellowship Team

### **Foster Care Child Sponsorship for Christmas**

Craven County Department of Social Services is looking for people to provide Christmas presents for children in the foster care system in Craven County. The children complete "letters to Santa" and individuals/families/organizations are given a child to either

purchase gifts for or to send in money so that DSS can purchase some of the things on the child's list. DSS asks sponsors to spend a minimum of \$125. If you are looking for a way to show support to children in our community who have faced tremendous difficulty and trauma this year, this is a wonderful way to do it. Contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org) for more information.

### **Pandemic Devotional Booklet**

From March 2020 to July 2021, devotions written by church members and staff were emailed to the congregation on weekdays. These devotions have been collected into a booklet that will be made available to the congregation. Please contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org) if you would like to receive a copy.

## **Education**

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

### **Sunday School for Children**

Children and Teachers are asked to wear masks in the classroom.

**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**

**TheoEd Talks/Jim Copland and Beth Paul – Ministry Center Room 2.21 (large center classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center)**

This new Sunday School offering is a place to land for parents of youngsters, young couples, and young adults. It will be a place to develop friendships, share about this unique stage of life we are in, and delve into some thought-provoking discussions about topics of faith. Each week we will view a TheoEd talk (think a TED talk on a topic of faith) with a discussion to follow. To learn more about

TheoEd talks visit <https://theoed.com/watch>. For questions contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

### **Getting Involved with God: Wrestling with the strange and sacred Scripture of the Old Testament/Maren Sonstegard-Spray – Session House Main Room**

If you have ever struggled with reading and understanding the Old Testament, or if you have ever wondered how the Old Testament relates to the New Testament, come join us. We will be guided by Ellen Davis's book "Getting Involved with God" and John Goldingay's book "Do We Need the New Testament," among others. No need to buy a book (unless you want to!). Bring your favorite translation of the Bible with you.

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

The class is studying the series "Celebrating God," looking at passages in both the Old and New Testaments. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

## **Mid-Week Formation Opportunities**

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

The group will meet on Mondays from 7:00-8:30 pm, starting with a hybrid arrangement – those comfortable meeting in person at the Ministry Center conference room, and those not yet comfortable attending online via Zoom at the same time. Join us as we accompany Amy-Jill Levine, one of our favorite authors and teachers, and author of "The Difficult Words of Jesus," as she guides us through that struggle to a place of greater understanding of what it is that our Lord is requesting of us. For more information, call Wendy Moeller 252-876-7259 or Marice Debruhl 252-637-5468 or Cathy Wingfield 828-767-0975.

### **Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support**

The group meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 for more information.

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

Led by Lloyd Griffith on Wednesdays noon-1pm and meets in Ministry Center Room 2.21 and by Zoom in a hybrid format to begin the fall. 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 in the Chapel. 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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Come when you can and bring a friend.

## **Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study**

We begin our next book “No Cure for Being Human: and other truths I need to hear” by Kate Bowler on October 28. 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** led by Ken Wilkins at Brewery 99 (1014 Pollock St) at 4 pm TODAY, Sunday, October 17. This will be a casual men’s gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith.

## **Flower Calendar**

It’s never too early to plan! Do you have a birthday, anniversary, or memorial date next year that you would like to reserve for providing the flowers at church? The 2022 Flower Calendar sign-up sheet is in the pink folder in the Narthex. Some dates are already spoken for, so take a look when you get a chance!

## **Nametags**

We want to encourage everyone to get in the habit of wearing their nametags again! If you have misplaced yours, Marcy, our Office Administrator, is happy to make you another one (marcy@firstpresnb.org). There is a board in the Narthex where you can leave your nametag at the end of the service, and it will be waiting for you the next Sunday.

## **Welcoming Tip of the Month**

Will you help make space for a newcomer or latecomer this fall? As we get back into the full swing of services this fall, it can be tricky for a newcomer or latecomer to find an available seat. Please sit in the middle of the pew if you are physically able - and maybe even move toward the front of the sanctuary. In all likelihood, folks feel more welcome when they can quickly spot a seat they can easily access, instead of having to tap on shoulders and do the pew-slide.

*First Presbyterian Church identifies itself as a welcoming community of faith and intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. The Welcoming Committee over the next year will be offering you monthly tips to strengthen the hospitality of our congregation.*

**Notes:**