

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

13 November 2022

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## Prayer of Preparation

O God,  
you have so greatly loved us,  
long sought us,  
and mercifully redeemed us.  
Give us grace  
that in everything we may yield ourselves,  
our wills and our works,  
a continual thank-offering to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Welcome

## The Chiming of the Trinity

## Introit

*Glorify Your Name*

Adkins

## Call to Worship

In the beginning, God created the world and God  
blessed it:

**"It is good."**

In the beginning, God created light, and God  
blessed it:

**"It is good."**

In the beginning, God created life, and God  
blessed it:

**"It is good."**

Since the beginning, God has not stopped creating,  
**calling us closer to all that is good.**

**Let us worship God!**

## Verses 1 and 3

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (G)  
F Dm B $\flat$

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of  
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D) (Bm)  
F Dm

end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly  
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es  
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) (D) (A)  
B $\flat$  F C

cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn  
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly  
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) (F $\sharp$ m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)  
Dm Am Dm B $\flat$  C F

to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall  
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,  
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm) (G) (D)  
Dm B $\flat$  F

rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

## Prayer of Confession

God whose spirit moved over the waters, you have washed us in your mercy, claimed us as your own, bound us in community, and called us to lives of baptismal grace. Forgive us, O God, for we have not lived as if we were your baptized people. We stumble over opportunities for forgiveness. We prioritize our own selfish interests. We are slow to disrupt the status quo, even when it means ignoring our neighbors' suffering.

*(pause for a time of silent confession)*

Forgive us, O God, and by your forgiveness,  
lead us back to your waters of transformation. 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

Matthew 25:31-46, Genesis 1:26-31

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

## Sermon

Vaughn Purnell

## Affirmation of Faith

from a Declaration of Faith, 1977

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule. Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self, family, race, or nation; to offer God joyously our money, ability, and time. It is part of our discipline to observe a day of worship and rest, setting aside our own working to enjoy God's work, celebrating with sisters and brothers the Lord's goodness. We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture, not expecting detailed directions for every decision, but relying on the Word to tell us who God is, to press God's present claim on us, and to assure us of God's grace and comfort. We are charged to pray for ourselves and others with gratitude, boldness, and persistence, confident that God hears and answers our prayers in ways best for us all. Life in God's presence issues in life for others, for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see, we cannot love God whom we do not see.

## Anthem

*We Lift Our Voices*

Liles

## 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

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Liturgist: Pat K. Rowlett

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Bass: Winston Dixon

Ensemble: Members of the Resurrection Singers

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The prayer of preparation is from Westminster Divines (1647).

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

Bookmark the church calendar! [www.firstpresnb.org/calendar](http://www.firstpresnb.org/calendar)

<b>Sunday, Nov. 13</b>	12:00 pm	Return from Family Camp
	4:00 pm	Sanctuary Bells (Handbell Choir)
<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)
	5:30 pm	Care Commission
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study (via Zoom)
	10:00 am	Program Staff Meeting
	10:30 am	Full Staff Meeting
	2:30 pm	Pickleball (J. Murphy Smith Center)
	6:30 pm	Worship Commission
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:45 pm	Presbyterian Women Circle 3
	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Preschool Book Sale (JM Smith Center Gym)
	11:45 am	Preschool Choir
	12:00 pm	Life of Prayer
	3:30 pm	Outreach Commission
	5:00 pm	Contemplative Worship
<b>Thursday</b>	5:30 pm	Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal (JMSC Gym)
	8:00 am-2:00 pm	Preschool Book Sale (JM Smith Center Gym)
	2:30 pm	Pickleball (J. Murphy Smith Center)
	5:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary and Daybreak)
<b>Friday</b>	5:30 pm	Budget & Finance Meeting
	4:00 pm	Deadline for Newsletter Items
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 am	Pickleball (J. Murphy Smith Center)
<b>Sunday, Nov. 20</b>	8:30 am	Worship
	9:15-10:15 am	Fellowship Café
	9:40-10:40 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship
	12:00 pm	Adult Education Meeting
	4:00 pm	Sanctuary Bells (Handbell Choir)
	4:00 pm	Calvin and Hops (Men's Beer & Theology)
5:30-7:30 pm	SALT and Youth Group (Grades 3-12)	

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Special Offering – through November 27

In response to the devastation wrought by recent hurricanes Ian and Fiona, the Session has approved a special offering designated for Hurricane Relief. To contribute, simply write "Hurricane" on an envelope or in the memo line of a check or choose "Hurricane Relief" as your fund in the online giving portal.

### **Advent Craft Fair - November 27 - 9:30 am**

All ages are invited for fellowship and to celebrate the beginning of the Advent season. Supplies will be provided to create an Advent Wreath for your family and you can pick up your 2022

Advent Devotionals. All Sunday School classes and the Fellowship Cafe will be moved over to the J. Murphy Smith Center. There will be stations to make Christmas ornaments, gifts, and even cocoa spoons!

### **New Member's Classes**

Are you interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian? We will offer New Member's classes on Sunday, **December 4**, and Sunday, **December 11** with a worshipful welcome either at the 11:00 worship service on December 11 or the 8:30 service on December 18. If you'd like to know more, please contact Anna Pinckney Straight. (anna@firstpresnb.org).

## **CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY**

### **❖ 9:40 am-10:40 am: 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

*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*

## **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 (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions.

### **Early Christianity to the Reformation – November 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.

*Midweek Opportunities*

### **Divine Sleep Yoga class**

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

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

We meet Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 via Zoom and are reading the book *Neglected Voices: Biblical Spirituality in the Margins*, by John Indermark. The book is available from Amazon, new or used. 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.

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

This new group hopes to be just the right balance of a shoulder-to-cry-on and a kick-in-the-pants to support your getting through this confusing and often painful process and putting your life back together. Our next meeting is Monday, **November 14, 12:00 pm**.

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

Led by Lloyd Griffith on **Wednesdays, 12:00-1:00 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.

## **SERVICE AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Presbyterian Women Thank Offering**

The November outreach program for Presbyterian Women will be the annual church-wide Thank Offering. Thank Offerings provide grants for a wide variety of projects at both national and international levels. Circle members are invited to bring a check in any amount they choose, made out to Presbyterian Women and with "Thank Offering" on the memo line, to their November Circle meeting, or mail them to the church.

### **RCS Clothing Boutique**

The boutique is seeking volunteers and subs. This opportunity involves working with another volunteer, greeting people, folding and bagging clothing, recording sales, and receiving payment. If interested, contact RCS and ask for Krishanda.