



First Presbyterian Church

New Bern, North Carolina

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

3 April 2022

5th Sunday of Lent

Worship for the Lord's Day

Prayer of Preparation

by Shirley Erena Murray

*Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.*

*Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat, and slows the pace,
God, it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.*

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. Catherine Campbell

The Sacrament of Baptism for Christopher Bradley Basto III

Parents: Emma and Brad Basto

Sponsors: Katherine and Dan Clark Elder: Stephen Mabie

Presentation

The Profession of Faith – questions for parents, sponsors, children, and congregation

Thanksgiving over the Water

Baptism

Prayer of Welcome

God of grace, parent to us all: we pray for Emma and Brad. Help them to know you, to love with your love, to teach your truth, and to tell the story of Jesus to Christopher, so that your Word may be heard and your Way followed, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

**Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine**

**Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.**

Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal p. 35

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

Anthem

God is Calling through the Whisper Bringle/Polish carol
(You are invited to read the lyrics of Hymn 410)

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

Matthew 7:24 – 8:4

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Study Catechism, 1998

What is prayer?

Prayer means calling upon God whose Spirit is always present with us. In prayer, we approach God with reverence, confidence, and humility. Prayer involves both addressing God in praise, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, and listening for God's word within our hearts. When we adore God, we are filled with wonder, love, and praise before God's heavenly glory. When we confess our sins to God, we ask for forgiveness with sorry hearts. When we give thanks to God, we acknowledge God's great goodness in all that has been provided for us. Finally, when we call upon God to hear our requests, we affirm that God is always near to us in times of need and sorrow.

What is the purpose of prayer?

Prayer brings us into communion with God. The more our lives are rooted in prayer, the more we sense how wonderful God is in grace, purity, majesty, and love. Prayer means offering our lives completely to God, submitting ourselves to God's will, and waiting faithfully for God's grace. Through prayer, God frees us from anxiety, equips us for service, and deepens our faith.

***Hymn 824**

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest

McAfee

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Rad and Wendy Moeller to the glory of God and in gratitude for the love and lives of Dade William Moeller, Betty Jean Radford Moeller, and Ruth Elizabeth Danielson Paulson.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer (8:30)

The Rev. Lloyd Griffith

Response

O Lord, Hear Our Prayer

Taizé/Berthier

Benediction

Postlude

Sortie Solennelle

Louis Niedermeyer

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, *Come and Find the Quiet Center* by Shirley Erena Murray, is used with permission by CCLI #21132219. All rights reserved.

Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

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-to 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 across the hall from the nursery. 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 need a device.

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 now optional for worship and church activities, following current medical advice and decreasing infection and hospitalization numbers. We encourage anyone who has a need or will be more comfortable wearing a mask to please feel free to do so. The Session continues to watch the situation and changes will be noted on our website and communicated by email.

If you'd like to be added to the church email list, please contact cathy@firstpresnb.org or visit firstpresnb.org/communications (scroll to the bottom of the page).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Financial Administrator!

Tomorrow, April 4, we will welcome our new, full-time financial administrator: Summer Hough! Summer comes to First Presbyterian with extensive experience in financial management and development with both churches and non-profits. Originally from the northeast United States, she moved to New Bern two years ago when her husband accepted the position of director with Religious Community Services. Summer will, normally, be in the office Monday – Thursday. Her email will be summer@firstpresnb.org. Welcome Summer!

Large Print Bulletins

Large print bulletins are now available in the Narthex! Ask an usher for assistance.

April Fellowship Meal

A traditional Easter meal will be served from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. on **Wednesday, April 6, 2022**, in the Fellowship Center. The menu will include baked ham, scalloped potatoes, baked vegetables, broccoli salad, rolls, and dessert. Take-out meals will be available beginning at 5:30 pm. We ask that anyone requesting takeout meals come inside to pick them up. Please email or call the Church by Monday, **April 4th** to show your intentions to attend. If you know that you would like take-out meals, please let us know.

Worship for Maundy Thursday and Holy Week

- ◆ **Palm Sunday, April 10th** including Communion
- ◆ **Maundy Thursday, April 14th** including Communion will be at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary, in person. A video service will be released by 7:00 pm that evening.
- ◆ **Easter Sunday, April 17th**, we will be indoors and in person at 8:30 am and, weather permitting, outdoors at 11:00 am. There will be a time of fellowship in the courtyard starting at 9:45 am and an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30 am on the lawn. In the case of bad weather, we will move the Egg Hunt and 11:00 am worship indoors and will make that decision by 5:00 pm on Saturday afternoon April 16th.

Easter Egg Hunt Donations Needed

As Easter approaches, our youth will soon be filling eggs for this year's egg hunt. We will have two areas this year, one for birth to age 4 and one for grades K-5. Proximity-wise, parents will be able to float between both areas. There will also be a special opportunity for grades 6-12 to win a prize!

If you are so inclined, egg stuffing donations can be dropped off in the church office until April 10. Please keep in mind that items must fit inside of a plastic egg! (Remind Catherine to tell you a story about an unfortunate donation of bunny-themed pencils for egg stuffing) Of course, candy can be donated, but you can also donate the following:

- ◆ Quarters
- ◆ Shells
- ◆ Legos
- ◆ Erasers
- ◆ Stickers
- ◆ Mini Bubbles
- ◆ Plastic Animals
- ◆ Spinning Tops
- ◆ Bouncy Balls
- ◆ Toy Cars
- ◆ Pre-inked Stamps
- ◆ Play Jewelry
- ◆ Temporary Tattoos

Photo Directory in the works!

We are working on updating our records to produce an up-to-date member photo directory for our congregation! The last one was done in 2017. If you would like to update or include your family or individual photo in the new directory, please send a good quality photo (preferably a jpg file) by email to marcy@firstpresnb.org. We would like to collect all photos in April and May. Stay tuned for more information to come!

RCS Donations Needed

RCS is looking for the following items for toiletry bags: large shampoo, large conditioner, women's deodorant, men's shaving cream, razors, small Q-tip boxes, and small Kleenex packs, small feminine hygiene packs, shower poofs, and hairbrushes. Donations may be left in any of the boxes in the church office or the Narthex.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross Blood drive will take place on **Thursday, April 7**, from 9 am-1:30 pm in the Session House. Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: firstpresbnb to schedule an appointment.

Rothermel Foundation Lecture – May 1, 2022

NEVER ENOUGH: The Neuroscience and Experience of Addiction is the title of the Rothermel Foundation lecture to be held on **Sunday, May 1**, in the Sanctuary at 2:00 pm. Dr. Judith Grisel, a neuroscientist with expertise in pharmacology, will speak of some of her experiences when an addict, as well as what she and other neuroscientists have learned about the causes of addiction and how the brain responds to pharmacological treatment. Dr. Grisel is a tenured professor at Bucknell University.

ESL Classes

ESL classes will resume at First Presbyterian Church in March, meeting on Mondays at 10:00 am, and Saturdays at 9:00 am. We are especially excited to restart this English literacy program for our Montagnard community after two years of the Covid shutdown. To ensure we have a smooth-running operation, **we need additional tutor volunteers**. We strive to have our tutors typically tutor twice a month for an hour to an hour and a half at a time. We provide training so prior tutoring experience is not necessary. Contact Gene Peele (gpeele@centurylink.net) if you are interested in learning more about our ESL program or shadowing one of our tutors to see how it works.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

We are in the season of Lent, so it is time for the One Great House of Sharing Offering. This special offering focuses on relieving hunger, responding to disasters, and alleviating poverty. The money is divided into thirds among the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. In the last few years, a substantial amount of that money found its way back through New Hope Presbytery to Pamlico County to rebuild after Florence. There are OGHS envelopes in the offering envelope booklets and there will also be envelopes available on Sunday mornings in worship. And, for children, youth, and anyone else who wants one, OGHS fish boxes are now available! The fish boxes and envelopes will be collected on Palm Sunday and Easter.

Education

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

Sunday School and Youth Group for Children and Youth

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).

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.

Save the date for VBS – June 13-17! More info to come!

Sunday School for Adults

The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor

The “God Frees and Redeems” series examines the nature of God through the lenses of liberation and Christian freedom. God’s deliverance is experienced in the story of the Passover and the good news of Easter. Contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

Tell It Slant/Wendy Moeller - Ministry Center Room 2.21 and on Zoom

Being offered in the Owl Classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center (and on Zoom) is a class on Eugene Peterson’s book Tell it Slant. The class will continue through the end of May and will be led by Wendy Moeller. You can purchase the book if you are interested in reading it; it is helpful but not necessary. If you need the Zoom information, please contact Cathy Wingfield (cathy@firstpresnb.org).

Glittering Vices: A look at the Seven Deadly Sins/Maren Sonstegard-Spray - Session House Main Room

During the season of Lent, a time of self-examination and reflection, let's take a closer look at the seven deadly sins (also known as the seven capital vices). The study of vices has a revealing and illuminating power and can be the starting point for spiritual growth. We will be guided by Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung's book "Glittering Vices" (but no need to buy the book) and feel free to join any of the classes. We will meet 9:40-10:40 am in the Session House Main Room. The class goes through April 10.

Starting May 1st: Harry Potter and the Bible/ Jessica Skinner and Maren Sonstegard-Spray - Session House Main Room

This class will look at the first book in the Harry Potter series, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" alongside themes and passages in the Bible. There is no need to have read the Harry Potter series or seen the movies before the class (but it won't hurt!). **This class is for all ages (children and youth welcome!).** We will be using the books "Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone" by J. K. Rowling and "The Gospel According to Harry Potter" by Connie Neal. There is no need to purchase the books.

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 study the second half of Eugene Peterson's book Tell it Slant (these chapters focus on prayer and are not being covered in the Sunday school class). For more information or to get on our list, please call Marice Debruhl at 252-637-5468 (h), Cathy Wingfield at 828-767-0975 (c), or Wendy Moeller at 252-876-7259 (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, 12:00-1:00 pm in the 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 NEXT BOOK

Starting on Thursday, April 28 we will study "Miracles and Other Reasonable Things: A Story of Unlearning and Relearning God" by Sarah Bessey (the keynote speaker for the Montreat Women's Conference in August). Our Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study meets weekly 10-11 am by Zoom. The book is available for purchase on Amazon (the Kindle version is 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).

*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.*