



*David's Dance*, by Lois Cordelia  
Silhouette paper-cut. Cut by hand using a scalpel.  
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11 July 2021  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World



Lift up your heads, O gates that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?**

The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

**Let us worship God!**

**Anthem**

*Blessed Assurance*

arr. Mauldin

**Confession**

God who creates, redeems, and sustains,

We confess that sometimes we don't follow you because  
we fear looking foolish.

Sometimes we shuffle when you ask us to leap.

Help us to let go of expectations that hold us back from you.

Forgive us, and help us to see ourselves as you see us.

Forgive us, and help us to see others with your eyes of love.

**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.’”

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Lesson**

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Anna Straight

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

God sent the promised Deliverer to his people. Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child.

**In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.**

**Anthem**      *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*      arr. Mauldin

### **Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Deborah Lifer to the glory of God and in celebration of Richard's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 15, their son Brandon's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 10, and their granddaughter Taylor's 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday on July 16.*

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

God of mercy, **be gracious to us.**

### **Benediction**

**Postlude**      *America*      arr. D. Eliot

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

A special thank you to our ushers this morning!

Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Ensemble: Resurrection Singers

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Nametags**

As more and more of the congregation is returning to worship in person after not seeing one another in quite a while AND to help Anna become acquainted with the congregation, we want to encourage everyone to get in the habit of wearing your 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**

In a large congregation like First Presbyterian, it is hard to know everyone. When you attend worship, there are just a few moments, before the service and after the service, when you can connect or chat. It's important to greet your friends, but how about making time to reach out with *more than a nod* to someone you haven't yet met. It's good to remember how Jesus was always on the look-out for the stranger.

*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 months will be offering you tips to strengthen the hospitality of our congregation.*

### **Flower Calendar**

Do you have a family birthday, anniversary, or memorial date coming up this fall? Currently, October 10<sup>th</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> are open. Other dates are available to the end of the year. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

### **Nursery Open**

The nursery has reopened for the 11am service (from 10:30am-noon) for children, infants through second grade.

## **Paid Nursery Worker Recruitment**

First Presbyterian Church is looking for two paid Nursery Workers and a paid Nursery Coordinator to care for our infant to four-year-old children on Sunday mornings and at special services. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have experience in caring for young children, complete a background check and complete CPR training for infants and children. Hours for the positions are normally 8:00 am – 12:30 pm. Interested individuals should send a resume to the Office Administrator at church@firstpresnb.org.

## **Adult Sunday school Class “Read This Book”**

JOIN US for Read This Book every Sunday, 9:30-10:30am on Zoom and in person (in the large central classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center). Each week a different person will present a book that informed, challenged, or inspired them, and connected with their faith. You don't have to attend every week to participate in the class, and friends and family are welcome to attend! To be included on the email list for the class, contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

Here is the schedule of upcoming presenters:

- **July 11** Stacey Griffith "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels" by Ken Bailey
- **July 18** Anna Straight "Finding God in the Waves: How I Lost My Faith and Found It Again Through Science" by Mike McHargue
- **July 25** Wendy Moeller "Hope In Times of Fear: The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter" by Timothy Keller

## **Adult Sunday school class “The Present Word”**

George Evans is leading "The Present Word class: Call in the New Testament". The class meets IN PERSON Sunday morning 9:40-10:40am in the Session House Parlor. Please contact George Evans (gkevens4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

## **Virtual VBS – Packets available**

We're so excited to announce that BOLT: Totally 80s VBS is coming to your house this summer and *can be done at any time!* With minimal preparation, easy-to-follow instructions, and a video that leads your family step-by-step through each day, BOLT is designed to bring the fun and faith-formation of VBS to your home! Depending on your pace, you can expect that each day's experience will last about an hour and a half. It's great for kids 5 and up. This virtual VBS is designed to be completed over four days, but those days can be spread out however you want!

## **African Jewelry Making Workshop**

Arts to End Genocide (ATEG) and Faith Connection will have a workshop in African Jewelry Making on Saturday, August 21, in the First Presbyterian Church J. Murphy Smith Center gymnasium. There will be two sessions (limit 125 each); 12:30-2:00 and 2:30-4:00. Reservations are recommended: 252-481-4772. Participants will receive a free packet of beads and materials to make a bracelet and/or earrings. Additional packets and/or individual beads will be available for purchase. This event is a benefit to help fund the relocation of 500 children out of a garbage dump in Bamako, Mali, West Africa, to a safer and healthier location.

## **Food 4 U**

Our Food 4 U program has been restarted and is ready to go. The only thing we need is food FROM you! Food 4 U is (will be) available to be picked up anytime for your family or someone you know who needs it. There is a freezer in the Session House kitchen and containers in the pantry there. Take a container home for the next time you have extra soup, casserole or whatever and bring it in. Labels are also provided. Thank you for thinking of and caring for each other in this way! Questions? Call Polly Frank, 703-927-4626.

## Notes:

*Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes 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.*