



*The five thousand*, by Eularia Clarke

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25 July 2021

9<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

*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.*



## 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

John 6:1-21

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

#### Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna 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.**

#### Anthem

*We Come with Joy*

Dufner/English tune

#### Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Joyce Weaver to the glory of God and in honor of Joyce and Clint’s wedding anniversary.*

#### Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

#### Benediction

#### Postlude

*Elegiac Prelude on “Jerusalem”*

Callahan

**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.**

Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

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Music notes: We know the hymn “Jerusalem” by Carl Daw, Jr.’s words, “O Day of Peace”. The tune with its original words - William Blake’s “And did those feet in ancient time” (1804) - was the opening anthem at the London Olympics in 2012. The tune is by Sir Hubert Parry (1916). Hymn no. 373.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Hymn Singing!**

As we move into a time and space where vaccination rates increase and infection rates decrease, the Worship Commission has recommended (and the Session agreed) that we can begin re-introducing congregational singing into our worship services! We hope and trust you will make the most faithful decisions for you and your family based on your own vaccination status and particular context. For worship in the Sanctuary, we trust that those who are fully vaccinated can decide whether or not to wear masks and sing. If you are not fully vaccinated, for your own protection, we ask that you wear a mask and decide accordingly what level of participation is wise and faithful.

### **Church Membership**

Whether you have been worshipping with First Presbyterian for one Sunday or one hundred, we'd welcome the opportunity to talk with you about what it means to be a part of a church community-what it might mean for you to take the joyful, faithful step of becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church.

To help facilitate these conversations, we have scheduled classes to be held on September 12 and 19 during the Sunday School hour with the opportunity to join and be welcomed in worship on the 19<sup>th</sup> (at 11:00) or the 26<sup>th</sup> (at 8:30).

If these dates don't work for you, please get in touch with Anna, so we can add you to the list for the next time we have these gatherings or so we can meet and find a pathway and timeline that works for you ([anna@firstpresnb.org](mailto:anna@firstpresnb.org) or 252-637-3270).

### **Presbyterian Women**

The Presbyterian's Women's Kick-off Luncheon will be held on August 22, in the Session House, after the 11:00 church service. All women are invited! You do not have to be a member of a church circle to attend. No reservation is needed, and the cost is free. Come enjoy fellowship with Presbyterian ladies, some of whom you may not have seen in over a year! You will be given the opportunity to join a circle if you are interested. Meetings will begin in September and the 2021-2022 study will be: "What My Grandmothers Taught Me."

## **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**

The flower calendar is now filled until the end of December! Many thanks to all who have signed up to provide flowers for the church. The calendar for 2022 is now included in the folder for anyone who wants to save a date for the future!

## **Nursery Open**

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

## **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 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 (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

## **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. This event is not recommended for children under 12 years of age. 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.

### **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!