



Raise Your Head, Lauren Wright Pittman, used with permission.

15 August 2021
12th Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

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

Order of Worship

Prayer of Preparation

I praise you, Lord, and give you thanks for the gift of this new day. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Let your songs fill my heart. Give me a wise and discerning mind to walk in your way, making the most of the time as I go out among your people. Amen.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

Cathedral Song

Utterback

Introit

Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show Lyte/Williams

*Call to Worship

Psalm 111

Praise the Lord!

**I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.

**Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.**

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

**He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.**

He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

**The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.**

They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

**He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.**

Holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever.

Let us worship God!

***Hymn 643** *Now Thank We All Our God* Rinkart/Crüger

Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not been faithful children. We have not lived by your law; we have remained silent in the face of evil; we have not refrained from deceit; we have not followed in the way of peace; and we have not honored all that is true and good. We have been foolish and immature people who resist the holy wisdom you graciously offer. Forgive us our sin, O God, and lead us to sincere repentance through Jesus Christ. 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

Ephesians 5:15-20

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

Sermon

Vaughn Purnell

*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 *Sing Thankful Songs* American melody/Gay

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Marcy Latteman to the glory of God and in celebration of her son Joseph's 26th birthday and her granddaughter Naomi's 2nd birthday.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *Festival March* Stickles

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.

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Liturgist: The Rev. Lloyd Griffith

Special thanks to Vaughn and Lloyd for leading worship this morning. Anna and Maren are at the Montreat Women's Conference this weekend along with 28 other women of the church.

Organist: Vance Harper Jones
Sarah Allan Straight, flute

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Installation Service and Dinner

The installation service for the Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight is **Sunday, August 29**, at 4:00 PM. A celebratory meal will follow in the J. Murphy Smith Fellowship Center. The meal will be catered by Moore's with a menu of Bar-b que, shrimp, slaw, beans, potato salad, hushpuppies, cake & ice cream. If you have not already RSVP'd for the meal, you may call the church office at 252-637-3270 or reply by email to church@firstpresnb.org. The deadline to respond regarding the meal is August 25. We are looking forward to celebrating this special day!

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian's Women's Kick-off Luncheon will be held on **Sunday, 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."

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 19th (at 11:00) or the 26th (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 or 252-637-3270).

Children's Library

As the William Lee Hawkins Library has made progress with its move to the Ministry Center, the Children's Library, located by the windows on the second floor near that library, is ready for all young readers! Please stop by and find a special book to enjoy together as a family. A table and some chairs have been placed for previewing your choices. Be on the lookout in October for an Open House for both libraries!

Parking

For those who park in the large parking lot across from the church, please make sure to park in the marked spaces only. We would like to keep the path clear around the island in the lot for cars coming and going from the New Street entrances. Thank you!

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

Our church has a large campus with a number of buildings, and people approach the center of the campus from several different directions. This can be confusing for anyone who isn't familiar with the buildings. We are working on improving signage so that directions are easier to understand, but sometimes YOU can lend a hand. If you see people looking puzzled, ask if you can help. If they are receptive, then lead, don't tell. It's easy enough to walk with them toward their destination--plus you have another brief opportunity to connect!

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 “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.

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.