



Orans figures with arms in praise, Panel from an early Christian
Coptic church in Bawit, Egypt. 5th-6th centuries

from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library,
Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54464>
[retrieved August 17, 2021].

August 22, 2021
13th 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.*

Order of Worship

Prayer of Preparation

Lord God, our sun and shield, a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. Let the favor of your presence strengthen us and accompany us everywhere we go today. Prepare us to be a sanctuary, that your light and love may radiate through us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Nearer, My God to Thee* Lowell Mason
arr. Jason Tonioli

Introit *Surely the Presence of the Lord* Wolfe
is in This Place arr. by Marsh

***Call to Worship** From Psalm 116

What shall we return to the Lord
for all the good things God has done for us?
**We will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.
Let us worship God!**

Anthem *Be Strong in the Lord* Johnson/Fettke

Confession

**Watchful God, you know our plight.
Offended, we have not believed your words.
Complaining, we have betrayed your love.
We are weak, estranged, wandering, and lost.
Seeking to stand in our own strength, we fall.
Strangers to your holiness, we wander.
Defenseless against evil within and without, we are lost.
Shine your light in our darkness,
and guide us back to our place in you. 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 6:10-20

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

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

*Affirmation of Faith

From a Declaration of Faith, 1977

Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record. The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history together with his people's response in faith. It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church toward the kingdom of God, his just and loving rule over all. It is the story of the one God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That story is still unfolding and in faith we make it our own. It forms our memory and our hope. It tells us who we are and what we are to do. To retell it is to declare what we believe. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Stephanie and Asher Brinson to the glory of God and in honor of their daughters Mary Grace and Olivia's start of the school year.

Jan Gunderson is happy to announce the birth of her second granddaughter, Amelia Grace, on August 10, in Newport News, VA. Amelia is the daughter of Beth and Alan Roughton, and joins her 4 year old sister, Anslie.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

***Hymn 63**

The Lord is God

Gambrell/Gläser
arr. Mason

Benediction

Postlude

El Shaddai

John Thompson
arr. Mark Hayes

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.

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Ensemble: Members of the Resurrection Singers

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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 Women's Kick-off Luncheon will be held this **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 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 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.

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: