

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

11 September 2022

The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer of Preparation

*Gracious God,
when our spirits lift at the beauty of the day,
you are Lord;
and when chaos threatens to overwhelm
and we dread the next news cycle—
still, you are Lord.
Always you are creating, redeeming, sustaining.
Speak then your mercy into this place
until we discover the courage to
open our eyes, unclench our hands,
and move toward our neighbor in need,
until all the world moves with the rhythm of your grace;
for we long to honor the name of Jesus,
by whose breath we pray. Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

God Welcomes All

Bell/South African tune

Call to Worship

Crowds gathered to hear Jesus speak of pain—
the pain of losing something precious.

Crowds gathered to hear Jesus speak of joy—
the joy of finding what was lost.

We gather to hear Jesus speak
words of truth, words of power, words of love.
Speak now, O Lord, for your servants are listening.

O Lord, our God, how excellent, how glorious is your name.
Your majesty surrounds the earth, and children sing your fame.

Into our hands, you've placed all things: the earth, the sea, each place
We're called to probe for secret gifts and venture into space.

O Lord, our God, how excellent, how glorious is your name,
Majestic in your holiness, we sing and praise your fame.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Create in us clean hearts, O God,
cast out any transgression you find there—
ransack, renovate, redecorate!
Deep in our hearts, remove fearful features
and restore your original design.

(we pause for a time of silent confession)

Make your dwelling place deep in our hearts,
and teach us wisdom,
so the hearts you transform may rejoice.
We ask this, and all things, in your name. Amen.

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

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-10

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's 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

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

R.V. Williams

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

...Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Benediction

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

The prayers of preparation and confession are from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.

The call to Worship is from *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts - Volume 55.1* Published by the Office of Theology and Worship of the PC (U.S.A.).

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Music Notes: The Anthem, composed to the tune of the Doxology, was arranged for the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey on Tuesday, 2 June 1953.

THE WEEK AHEAD

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--|
| Sunday, Sept. 11 | 5:30-7:30 | Children and Youth Fall Kick-Off |
| Monday, Sept. 12 | 9:00 | Preschool Chapel Time |
| | 10:00 | Presbyterian Women Circle 2 (MC Café) |
| | 12:00 | Divine Sleep Yoga Class |
| | 3:45 | Covenant Choir Rehearsal (grades K-5) |
| | 5:30 | Care Commission |
| Tuesday, Sept. 13 | 7:30 | Women's Bible Study |
| | 12:00-1:00 | Grief Support |
| Wednesday, Sept. 14 | 7:00 | Session Meeting |
| | 10:30 | Service in Memorial Garden |
| Thursday, Sept. 15 | 5:00-5:30 | Contemplative Worship |
| | 5:30 | BBQ Fellowship Supper |
| | 5:00 | Resurrection Singers |
| Friday, Sept. 16 | 5:30 | Budget & Finance Meeting |
| Sunday, Sept. 18 | 4:00 | Deadline for First Edition submissions |
| | 8:30 | Worship |
| | 9:15-10:15 | Coffee Café (Ministry Center) |
| | 9:40-10:40 | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 | Worship |
| | 5:30-7:30 | Youth Group |
| | 4:00 | Sanctuary Bells |

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Coffee Café is back in service! The Coffee Cafe is operated with the support of the congregation every Sunday morning between services. It is a great time to visit and grab some refreshments after the 8:30 service or on your way to Sunday School.

Please plan to join us Wednesday, September 14th for our monthly fellowship meal. This fall kickoff event will be held at the JMS Fellowship Center, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The meal will include bar-b-que chicken, baked potatoes, summer vegetables, salad, and dessert. **The deadline for signup is Monday, Sept. 12th at 5:00 pm.**

This year's CROP Hunger Walk will be held on September 25! We would love to have you join our First Pres Team! You can sign up at the following link to either walk with us on Sept. 25 or simply donate to our team! mariannardunn@gmail.com with questions. Team link: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/first-pres-new-bern>

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

- ❖ **9:40am-10:40am: Sunday School: Follow Me: Make Peace**
Children (Grades K-5) in Ministry Center Room 1.24
Youth (Grades 6-12) in Ministry Center Rooms 2.23-24
Confirmation Choir will meet Sept 18, 25, and Oct 2 from 9:40 am-10:15 am with Sunday School following
- ❖ **Children and Youth Fall Kick-off**
B9, G42, I29, O82... BINGO! Get ready to win prizes, mix and mingle, make friends, and laugh the night away! **All families, from Birth to Grade 12** are invited to join in the fun **TODAY from 5:30**

pm-7:30 pm in the Session House as we kick off our fall season. *Bring a snack to share! We'll have tea and lemonade!*

If you are interested in a detailed calendar of upcoming Children, Youth, and Family Ministry opportunities, or volunteering, please reach out to Catherine Campbell: catherine@firstpresnb.org

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

(for complete class descriptions pick up an Adult Ed brochure or visit the website)

Sunday Mornings, 8:40 am-9:40 am

The Present Word - Session House Parlor - Every Sunday

Taught by George Evans. *The Present Word* is a class that studies the Bible over six years and focuses on a specific theme each quarter.

Teen-ology – Session House Main Room - September 11 and 18

Taught by Catherine Campbell. If you've ever had questions about your teen (or pre-teen) and their faith journey, this is the mini-series for you! Contact catherine@firstpresnb.org with questions.

New Member Class - Ministry Center, Conference Room - September 11 and 18

For those who feel called to become a part of the First Presbyterian Church family, these classes provide an introduction to the Presbyterian history, theology, and practice both generally and specifically at FPC. Contact anna@firstpresnb.org with questions.

Learning to Pray - Owl Room (Ministry Center, 2nd Floor) - September 11, 18, 25

Taught by Elaine Berberich. How do we pray? This class will be taught using the eponymous *New York Times*–bestselling book by Father James Martin.

The Letter to the Church in Ephesus - Session House Main Room - September 25 & October 2 Taught by Anna Pinckney Straight Come and join in a conversation about the letter Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus. What do his words say to us today?

October 9, 16, 23: Protestant Prayer Beads, taught by Lynn Gorges and Janet Bryan

October 9: “The Civil War and Genesis of Black Church in New Bern,” Bernard George

Midweek Opportunities

Divine Sleep Yoga class - Mondays - The Lighthouse

Taught by Diane Elliott and offered on Mondays, 12:00-1:00 pm in the Lighthouse (on the corner of New and Hancock streets). Contact Diane Elliott with questions (410 507-5508, dianeelliott@gmail.com) The class is free, but donations are accepted.

Monday Evening Women’s Bible Study - Zoom

We will meet Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom starting **September 12** and will be reading the book *Neglected Voices: Biblical Spirituality in the Margins*, by John Indermark.

Contact Cathy@firstpresnb.org with questions.

Rebuilding - Divorce Recovery Group - 3rd Mondays at noon - The Chapel

This new group hopes to be just the right balance of a shoulder-to-cry-on and a kick-in-the-pants to support your getting through this confusing and often painful process and putting your life back together. Our next meeting is Monday, **September 19**.

Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support - 2nd Tuesdays - The Chapel

The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Chapel. **The next meeting is on September 13**. This ongoing group provides its members with understanding and support after someone they love dies. Come and bring a friend.

Life of Prayer: The Practice of Contemplative Living - Wednesdays at noon - The Owl Room

Led by Lloyd Griffith we will begin this year with *Promptings from Paradise* by John Phillip Newell. Our next meeting is **September 21**.

Wednesday Evening Contemplative Worship - The Chapel

Led by Lloyd Griffith. This contemplative, reflective, approach to worship is offered each Wednesday from 5:00 - 5:30 pm. **Our next meeting is September 14**.

Calvin and Hops (Men's Beer and Theology) - September 18 at 4:00 pm - Brewery 99

Led by Ken Wilkins, this is a casual men's gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith.