

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

18 September 2022

The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer of Preparation

*God of grace,
you have given us minds to know you,
hearts to love you,
and voices to sing your praise.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may celebrate your glory
and worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Come, Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Dill/Darwall

Call to Worship

Beloved children of God,
in supplication and prayer,
with intercessions and with thanksgiving,
we come to worship God.

In hope and in humility,
with joy and with concerns,
we come to worship God.

In faith and in uncertainty,
with questions and with conviction,
let us worship God.

Hymn 724

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Bode/Mann

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.**

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
That where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

(we pause for a time of silent confession)

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways
to the glory of your holy 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 16:1-13

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

Affirmation of Faith

from a Declaration of Faith, 1977

Christ calls us to pilgrimage toward the kingdom. Jesus announced the coming of God's kingdom and its hidden presence in the midst of the world's kingdoms. He taught his disciples to seek God's Kingdom first. We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom. Like Christ, we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful. No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world. We are in the world, but not of the world. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom. Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen.

Anthem

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

African American spiritual
Arranged by Wendell P. Whalum

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

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Ensemble: Members of the Resurrection Singers
Winston Dixon, Bass

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.).

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service was obtained from ONE LICENSE,
License #A-701790, and CCLI # 3202763. All rights reserved.

Come, Sing O Church in Joy!: Text: Brian Dill, 1988 © 1989 *Brian Dill*; Music: John Darwall, 1770. As published in *Glory to God* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Permission by ONE LICENSE #A-701790.

O Jesus, I Have Promised: Text: John Ernest Bode, 1866, alt. Music: Arthur Henry Mann, 1881. As published in *Glory to God* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Permission by ONE LICENSE #A-701790.

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me: Text: African American spiritual; Music: African American spiritual. Arranged by Wendell P. Whalum, 1984 © Estate of Wendell P. Whalum. As published in *Glory to God* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Permission by ONE LICENSE #A-701790.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Sept. 18	5:30-7:30	Youth Group
	4:00	Sanctuary Bells
Monday	9:00	Preschool Chapel Time
	12:00	Divorce Recovery Group
	3:45-5:00	Covenant Choir (grades K-5)
	6:00	Administration Commission (via Zoom only)
	7:00	Women's Bible Study (via Zoom)
Tuesday	10:00	Program Staff Meeting
	10:30	Full Staff Meeting
	6:30	Worship Commission
Wednesday	7:00	Circle 3 Meeting
	11:45	Preschool Choir
	12:00	Life of Prayer
	3:30	Outreach Commission
	5:00	Contemplative Worship
Thursday	5:30	Personnel Committee
	5:15	Daybreak & Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, September 25	8:30	Worship
	9:15-10:15	Fellowship Café (Ministry Center)
	9:40-10:40	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	2:00	Service in Memorial Garden
	2:30-4:00	CROP Hunger Walk
	4:00	Sanctuary Bells

UPCOMING EVENTS

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! <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/first-pres-new-bern>
If you have any questions, please email Marianna at mariannardunn@gmail.com!

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.

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

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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

The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor

The class will be studying “God’s Exceptional Choice” for the fall. Contact George Evans at gkevans4@gmail.com with questions.

Teen-ology - Session House Main Room – TODAY, September 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 – TODAY, September 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 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,” taught by Bernard George

Midweek Opportunities

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

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

Divine Sleep Yoga class – No class this Monday, September 19

The class is taught by Diane Elliott and offered on Mondays, 12:00-1:00 pm in the Lighthouse (on the corner of New and Hancock streets). Participants may bring a prop, such as a yoga mat and blanket for comfort. Contact Diane Elliott with questions at 410-507-5508, or dianeelliott@gmail.com. The class is free, but donations are accepted.

Monday Evening Women’s Bible Study

We meet Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom and are reading the book *Neglected Voices: Biblical Spirituality in the Margins*, by John Indermark. For more information, contact Wendy Moeller at 252-876-7259 or Marice Debruhl at 252-617-8557. To be placed on the Zoom list, contact Cathy Wingfield at cathy@firstpresnb.org.

Rebuilding – Divorce Recovery Group

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

The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (the next meeting is on **October 11**) from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Chapel. 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

Led by Lloyd Griffith on Wednesdays from noon-1:00 pm and meets in the Ministry Center Owl Room and by Zoom in a hybrid format. The group will be studying *Intimacy with God*, by Thomas Keating. Our next meeting is Wednesday, **September 21**. Contact Lloyd at lloyd@firstpresnb.org with any questions.

Luke 16: 1 – 13

A Rough Translation from Greek by the Rev. D. Mark Davis

<https://leftbehindandlovingit.blogspot.com/2022/09/the-hedging-fund-manager.html>

¹ Yet he was also saying to the disciples, “A certain man was wealthy, who had a manager, and it was falsely charged to him that he was wasting his livelihood. ² And having yelled for him, he said to him, “What is this that I am hearing about you? Give the account of your management, for you are no longer able to manage.” ³ Yet the manager said to himself, “What should I do because my lord is taking the management away from me? I am not strong to dig, I shame myself to beg. ⁴ I knew what I would do so that when I might be dismissed from the management they would take me into their homes. ⁵ And having called to himself one by one the ones the lord’s debtors, he was saying to the first, “How much do you owe my lord?” ⁶ And he said, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” And he said to him, “Take up your bill and having sat down quickly write fifty.” ⁷ Then he said to the other, “And how much do you owe?” And he said, “A hundred containers of wheat.” And he says to him, “Take up the bill and write eighty.” ⁸ And the lord commended the manager of injustice because he acted shrewdly; For the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I say to you, “Make friends for yourself out of the unjust mammon, so that when it should fail, they may welcome you into their eternal tents. ¹⁰ The one who is faithful in few is also faithful in much; and who is unjust in few is also unjust in much. ¹¹ Therefore, if in the unjust mammon you did not become faithful, who will have faith in you (for) the true mammon? ¹² And if in that belonging to others you did not become faithful, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ No house servant can serve two lords. For either he will hate the one and love the other, or hold one and disdain the other. You are not able to serve God and mammon.

Luke 16: 1 – 13

New Revised Standard Version

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”