

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

25 September 2022

The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer of Preparation

*Eternal God, you are above all, and in all, and through all.
Every joy and delight of life is a gift given to remind us of
your glory. The flora and fauna of all creation tell of your
creative power. We are grateful. Bless us in this hour that
we might sing your praises, confess our sin, contemplate
your word, and bring our offerings for the good of creation.
All of these things we pray in Jesus' name, and for his sake.
Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

There Is Now a New Creation

Gambrell/1715

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long ...

who made heaven and earth, the sea,

and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers;

God upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion,

for all generations. Praise the Lord!

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis - tening ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world. O, let me ne'er for - get that

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world. The bat - tle is not done: Je -

rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the won - ders wrought.
 sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heaven be one.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, giver of all that is good, we recognize that you are the source of all that is. The breath of life is a gift from your generous hand. The food we eat is grown in the world you sustain. The community that supports us is called into being by your saving activity. Everything we have is a gift from you. So why do we believe we must hoard our blessings? It is our sin that makes us live as though we don't trust your goodness.

(we pause for a time of silent confession)

So forgive us, we pray. Teach us again what it is to rely upon you. Remind us that we are always in your loving care. Fill us with grace and goodwill, that our hearts might overflow from the fullness of your love. 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

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

Affirmation of Faith

from a Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Anthem

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

arr. Austin Lovelace

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

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, September 25	4:00	Sanctuary Bells (Handbell Choir)
Monday	9:00	Preschool Chapel Time
	12:00	Divine Sleep Yoga Class
	3:45-5:00	Covenant Choir (grades K-5)
	7:00	Women's Bible Study (via Zoom)
Wednesday	11:45	Preschool Choir
	12:00	Life of Prayer
	1:00	Lunch Wagon Committee Meeting
	5:00	Contemplative Worship
Thursday	8:00-3:00	Red Cross Blood Drive

	5:15	Daybreak & Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, October 2	8:30	Worship
	9:15-10:15	Fellowship Café (Ministry Center)
	9:40-10:40	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	4:00	Sanctuary Bells (Handbell Choir) - canceled
	5:30-7:30	Youth Group (grades 6-12)

UPCOMING EVENTS

This year's CROP Hunger Walk is TODAY, 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>.

October Fellowship Meal – J. Murphy Smith Fellowship Center – October 5, 5:30-7:00

This will be a fundraiser for our preschool scholarship program so we can continue to offer early childhood education for our friends in the community who need a little help! Dinner will include 2 different pasta choices, bread, salad, and dessert. There is no charge for the meal and you can dine in or carry it out. Donations will be accepted. We can't wait to see our Church and preschool families for great food and fellowship! Please contact the church to sign-up at church@firstpresnb.org or 252-637-3270 by Monday, October 3rd at 5 pm.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

❖ **9:40 am-10:40 am: 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 on Sept. 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 is studying "God's Exceptional Choice" for the fall. Contact George Evans with questions.

Learning to Pray - Owl Room (Ministry Center, 2nd Floor) – September 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?

Protestant Prayer Beads - October 9, 16, 23 - Ministry Center Library. Taught by Lynn Gorges and Janet Bryan. Please sign up in advance: church@firstpresnb.org

“The Civil War and Genesis of Black Church in New Bern,” - October 9 – Session House. Taught by Bernard George.

Midweek Opportunities

Monday Evening Women’s Bible Study

We meet **Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30** via Zoom and we read 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 828-767-0975.

Divine Sleep Yoga class

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. The class is free, but donations are accepted.

Rebuilding – Divorce Recovery Group

The group meets on the **3rd Monday of the month** in the Chapel (our next meeting is **October 17**). 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.

Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support

The group meets on the **2nd Tuesday of the month** from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Chapel (our next meeting is **October 11**). 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, noon-1:00 pm**, and meets in the Ministry Center Owl Room and by Zoom. The group is studying *Intimacy with God*, by Thomas Keating.

Contemplative Worship

The group meets on **Wednesday evenings, 5:00-5:30**, in the Chapel. Led by Lloyd Griffith, this quiet service is focused on silence, prayer, and shared reflection on Biblical text. The Lord’s Supper is observed on the **4th Wednesday** of the month.