

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

4 September 2022

The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer of Preparation

from Isaiah 55

*God who calls us out in joy and leads us back in peace,
As we gather, remind us that in your presence,
the mountains and hills burst into song;
all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
With you, instead of the thorn, a cypress shall rise;
Instead of the brier, a myrtle will grow.
In these moments, may your everlasting signs
act as a reminder and encouragement.
Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Take, O Take Me as I Am

Bell/Iona

Call to Worship

from Psalm 96

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

before the LORD; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.**

Let us worship God!

Capo 3: (D) F (Em) Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)
 C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
 F7 B^b Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
 B^b Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Lord, all that we have is a gift from you,
 yet our lives do not place gratitude first.
 We ignore strangers
 and turn away from those in need.
 We seek honor for ourselves
 and allow pride to take root in us.**

(we pause for a time of silent confession)

**Forgive our foolish ways, O God,
 and restore us to you,
 that we may walk in the way of 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

Revelation 22:1-7

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

God has not waited to be discovered. The Lord has taken the initiative and addressed his Word to humankind in many ways. Through the Word of God the world was created. The Word became flesh in Jesus Christ. Through the Word of God the New Creation is being formed. We believe God's Word is God's communication to us. Although God is free to speak to us in unexpected ways, we confidently listen for his Word in Jesus Christ, in holy Scripture, in preaching, and in the sacraments. The Word which was with God from the beginning was embodied in Jesus Christ. We hold that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord as he is remembered, known, and expected. The Spirit adds no different Word from God, but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ.

Anthem

Shall We Gather at the River

Lowry

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 4	8:40-9:40	Sunday School, The Present Word (Session House)
	10:00	Worship
Monday		On Labor Day, Church Office is Closed
Tuesday	10:30	Staff Meeting
	12:00	Divine Sleep Yoga Class
Thursday	5:00	Resurrection Singer Rehearsal
	6:00	Rothermel Board Meeting
	6:00	Daybreak and Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, September 11	8:30	Worship
	9:15-10:15	Fellowship Café (Ministry Center)
	9:40-10:40	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	5:30-7:30	Children and Youth Fall Kickoff (Session House)

UPCOMING EVENTS

On September 11 (the Sunday After Labor Day) we will return to two worship services – 8:30 and 11:00. Sunday School for all ages will be from 9:40 – 10:40.

The Coffee Café will return to service beginning Sunday, September 11th. Please plan to stop by and grab a cup of coffee and a snack. The café is open from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday. It is a great time to visit with people attending the early service or those on their 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 an assortment of desserts. Please contact the church office to indicate your intentions to attend. **The deadline for signup is Monday, September 12th at 5 pm.** Please sign up early to allow our team ample time to prepare properly.

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

- ❖ **Children (Grades K-5) and Youth (Grades 6-12) Sunday School Classes** will begin **Sunday, September 11, and will meet from 9:40 am-10:40 am.** Both groups will be using the "Follow Me" curriculum, beginning with a unit on Making Peace. Children meet in Ministry Center room 1.24 and Youth meet upstairs in rooms 2.23-24.
- ❖ **Children and Youth Fall Kick-off**
B9, G42, I29, 082... 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 on **Sunday, September 11 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, 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 (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions.

Sunday Afternoon and Midweek Opportunities

Monday Evening Women's Bible Study

We will meet Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 via Zoom starting **September 12** and will be reading the book *Neglected Voices: Biblical Spirituality in the Margins*, by John Indermark. The book is available from Amazon, new or used. 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 (410 507-5508, dianeelliott0@gmail.com) The class is free, but donations are accepted.

Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support

The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (the next meeting is on **September 13**) 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.

Calvin and Hops (Men's Beer and Theology)

The next gathering of "Calvin and Hops" will be on **Sunday, September 18** at 4:00 at Brewery 99 (1014 Pollock St.). Led by Ken Wilkins, this is a casual men's gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith.

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**.