

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD • GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA
704.864.2651 • www.fpcgastonia.org • streaming live

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Silent Prayer and Reflection before Worship

The time is fulfilled, and the reign of God has come near.

Repent and believe the good news.

WE COME TOGETHER

CARILLON PEAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE

“I Want To Walk As a Child of the Light”

Rebecca Groom te Velde

CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Mark 1:14b-15)*

Jesus comes to us today, just as he first came to Galilee,

proclaiming the good news of God, and saying:

“The time is fulfilled and the reign of God has come near;

repent, and believe the good news.”

†PRAISE SONG

“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”

Brian Doerksen

CALL TO CONFESSION *(from 1 John 1:8-9)*

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins,

God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins,

and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In humility and faith,

let us confess our sin to God.

SHARED PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(adapted from Book of Common Worship)*

Loving God, through Christ you call us to repent of our sin, to believe the good news, and to celebrate the coming of your reign. Yet, too often we do not listen to his call to discipleship. Too often we do not forsake old ways that keep us from following new directions where Christ would send us. Too often we fail to live as those whose thoughts, words, and deeds proclaim the compassion and grace of the gospel to a world crying out for good news...

SILENT CONFESSION

By your Spirit, O God, gather us to be united in seeking your sacred pathways and strengthen us to meet the challenges of being your servant people. For the sake of the good news of your redeeming purposes we pray...

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *(from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)*

So if anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away.

See, everything has become fresh and new!

All this is from God, who is reconciled to us through Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Friends, believe and trust the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!

WE EMBRACE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 12:1-8

ANTHEM

"I Will Follow"

Morgan/Tomlin

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:14-20

SERMON

"Close Call"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from Philippians 2:5-11)*

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! AMEN.

†PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

(Tithes and offerings may be presented at www.fpcgastonia.org/giving.)

ORGAN OFFERTORY

“Pièce pour Orgue”

Louis Marchand

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

Great and gracious God, you surround us with an abundance of blessings that give us plenty of what we need for ourselves, and plenty more to share with the world. Bless us to be blessings to others by giving with a spirit of generosity that reflects the big-heartedness of your grace. As we bring forward these offerings of thanksgiving, nerve us with such gratitude that our ears are opened to heed your call, our eyes our opened to see your pathways, and our hearts are opened to follow your lead. For the sake of the reign of God we pray. AMEN.

†CLOSING HYMN

“Christ for the World We Sing”

†BLESSING

†ORGAN POSTLUDE

“Postlude on ITALIAN HYMN”

Helmut Walcha

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Fred Lyon, Pastor John H. Stanley,
David Jennings, Matt Smith, Holly Shropshire

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL VIDEO LESSON

Please join us online as Betty Davenport presents this week's Sunday School video lesson titled, "Called to Heal." You can find this video, along with our pastoral and staff videos, at www.fpcgastonia.org/videos.

JANUARY FOOD COLLECTION FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

During the month of January we will be collecting non-perishable food and pantry items for Crisis Assistance Ministry (CAM). Please drop off your donations at the Reception Desk to fill the shelves at CAM and the stomachs of the hungry in our community!

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

The church office will be closed tomorrow, January 18, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Staff will return to the office on Tuesday, January 19. If, over the holiday, you need pastoral care in the event of an emergency or due to the hospitalization or death of a church member, please call the church office at (704) 864-2651, and please press 5 to be connected to the pastor on call.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Food for Thought continues this Tuesday, January 19, at 12:00 p.m. as Fred teaches "All Marked Up," an overview of the book of Mark. This week we will be studying chapters 6:1-8:21. We invite you to bring your lunch and join us on Zoom as you are able. Lesson outlines and information to join the Zoom meeting are available in the weekly E-Blast.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

A special offering benefiting Crisis Assistance Ministry and S.O.C.K.S. will be collected on February 7. The Souper Bowl of Caring reminds us that while we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, there are many within our community who go without a bowl of soup to eat. Visit www.fpcgastonia.org/giving to support this ministry.

PLANNED GIVING MINISTRY

Although COVID-19 restrictions have curtailed our ability to reach out to our congregation in person as we had planned last year, please know that we will be happy to meet with anyone interested in discussing planned giving in a masked and socially distanced setting of their choice. Or we will be glad to discuss planned giving on the telephone or by email. Just call or email Liz Sumner at 704-616-0389 or lsumner@mhc-law.com and she will make the arrangements. In the meantime, please know that we are keeping each and every member of our congregation in our prayers.

BLANKET SUNDAY

We see all kinds of disasters every day on the news. Prayerfully consider making a donation on February 21, Blanket Sunday, to help families suffering disasters everywhere. All donations go to Church World Service to be used around the world to help families recover from disasters. CWS helps people in a time of crisis by giving them the resources they need for the long road to recovery. Blankets and other types of support are provided by CWS not only in the United States; but also around the world anywhere disaster strikes. Blanket Sunday is just one of the many ministries that Presbyterian Women support. Each \$10.00 donation provides a blanket for someone in need at home and abroad. To learn more about this ministry, please visit www.cwsblankets.org.

SR. HIGH MISSION TRIP

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to serve as the Sr. High Youth travel to Lexington County, SC, July 18-24! With Next Step Ministries, we'll have the chance to partner with local churches and organizations on projects ranging from construction work to serving food to leading VBS. Come be the hands and feet of Christ and serve alongside our SC neighbors! Registration and a \$50 deposit are due by March 10. Register by January 27 and get \$10 off the \$150 total cost!

COME, NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP

Verse 1

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

Chorus

One day every tongue
Will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to worship
Come

CHRIST FOR THE WORLD WE SING

Verse 1

Christ for the world we sing;
the world to Christ we bring
with loving zeal:
the poor and them that mourn,
the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow worn,
whom Christ doth heal.

Verse 3

Christ for the world we sing;
the world to Christ we bring
with one accord:
with us the work to share,
with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear,
for Christ our Lord.

Verse 2

Christ for the world we sing;
the world to Christ we bring
with fervent prayer:
the wayward and the lost,
by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost
from dark despair.

Verse 4

Christ for the world we sing;
the world to Christ we bring
with joyful song:
the newborn souls whose days,
reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise,
to Christ belong.