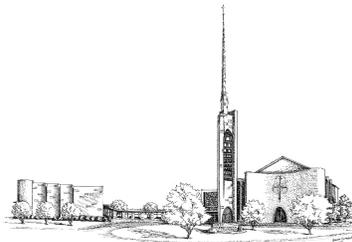


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Second Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Words for Silent Prayer and Reflection before Worship

In the midst of uncertain times, we gather with joy, for Easter continues.

Locked doors have been opened and fear has turned to peace. We celebrate the presence of the Risen Christ among us. Doubts have been erased and uncertainty has turned to faith. Today, the Second Sunday of Easter, let us rejoice and be glad! In worship let us offer our prayers and our praise with humble, hopeful hearts.

~Presbyterian Church in Canada~

WE COME TOGETHER

CARILLON PEAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor John H. Stanley

PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION

“Widerstehe Doch Der Sünde”

J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Fred Lyon

We worship in the Easter light,

for the shadow of death is no match for God’s love.

Let us join our voices with the disciple Thomas:

“My Lord and my God!”

Easter people, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

†HYMN #238

“Thine Is the Glory”

JUDAS MACCABEUS

WE APPROACH GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

SHARED PRAYER OF CONFESSION (adapted from PC(USA) *Call to Worship*)

O Christ, you rose from the depths of suffering, from death itself, to breathe peace upon your disciples. Still, O Lord, we cannot trust your promise of peace. Still, O Lord, we do not follow in the way of your love. Forgive us when we fail to be people of resurrection. Forgive us when we fail to recognize your grace. Show us your hands and your feet once more, and teach us to be your body in the world...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (adapted from Romans 5:6, 8-11)

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

This proves God's love for us: while we were sinners Christ died for us.

Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

For if while we were sinners we were reconciled to God through the death of Jesus Christ much more surely, having been reconciled, we will be saved by his resurrection.

Now we may even boast in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

†GLORIA PATRI #581

"Glory Be to the Father"

GREATOREX

WE EMBRACE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 133

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-31

SERMON

"The Wonder of Faith and Doubt"

Pastor John H. Stanley

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.26)

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore

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.)

OFFERTORY

“Reflection on ST. FLAVIAN”

David Schelat

†DOXOLOGY

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us pray.....(pastor continues in prayer...)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF GOD’S PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

†PRAISE HYMN

“God Of Our Salvation”

P. Wickham

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

“Fanfare”

Jacques Lemmens

†If you are able, please stand.

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Fred Lyon, Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore, Pastor John H. Stanley,
Bethany Jennings, David Jennings, Matt Smith, Thrive Band

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL VIDEO LESSON

Please join us online as Richard Rankin presents this week's Sunday School video lesson titled, "Ezra: Faith and Action Preacher." The video lesson will premiere at 9:00 a.m. and will be available on-demand following the initial broadcast. You can find this video, along with our pastoral and staff videos, at www.fpcgastonia.org/videos.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON APRIL 18

The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, April 18, starting at 11:15 a.m. after our 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. At this meeting, we will receive a report from the PNC that will introduce the selected candidate for the position of Senior Pastor. You will be able to join this meeting either in-person or signing on via Zoom. Please be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks which will explain how to participate in the meeting the way you choose to attend.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Help our youth go to Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference and on their Mission Trip to Lexington County, SC! Go online or call the church to pre-order a casserole made by our wonderful caterer, Gwen Yon! Choose from baked spaghetti, chicken casserole, or veggie lasagna. An 8"x8" pan is \$20 and a 9"x13" pan is \$30. Orders must be in by Friday, April 16. Casserole pickup will be available from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 25. The FPC Youth are excited to go out into the world to learn, love, & serve—your faithful support helps them in so many ways!

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE

The Gastonia Parish Nurse Ministry will host the OneBlood Mobile Blood Drive unit in the church parking lot tomorrow, April 12, from 2:30-6:30 p.m. Please visit www.fpcgastonia.org/parish-nurse to make an appointment.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE EXTENDED

The church business office is now accepting applications for scholarships intended to provide financial assistance to church members pursuing a secondary education. Awards are based upon financial need; however, merit, academics, Christian character, and the record of service within the church are taken into consideration during the review of applications. Previous award recipients must re-apply and are not automatically eligible for continuance of the scholarship. Those interested in applying may receive an application through the church business office.

The deadline to receive applications has been extended through May 1, 2021. Please visit the church website to download an application.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

We are excited to announce that the Presbyterian Women's Annual Birthday Luncheon will take place in the church parking lot on Monday, May 3, at 12:00 p.m. Box lunches will be provided by Spindle City Cafe and will include 1/2 chicken salad sandwich with lettuce and tomato on wheat bread, fresh fruit medley, and triple chocolate pound cake, with water bottles and chips provided by the church. Each meal cost \$8, or feel free to bring your own sack lunch!

We will not be using tickets this year, so we instead ask that you please RSVP online by April 23. Visit www.fpcgastonia.org/presbyterian-women to signup and place your lunch order!

THINE IS THE GLORY

Verse 1

Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

Refrain

Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.

Verse 2

Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting. (Refrain)

Verse 3

No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. (Refrain)

GOD OF OUR SALVATION

Verse 1

Come and see His glory come just as you are
Come and hear the story of His heart
God so loved His children He gave His only Son
That we might be forgiven death has been
overcome

Chorus

Hallelujah hallelujah
You are the God of our salvation
You have conquered You have risen
You are the God of our salvation

Verse 2

Come you tired and weary come just as you are
Come and let His mercy heal your heart
God so loved His children He gave His only Son
That we might be forgiven death has been
overcome

Bridge

Holy holy holy is the Lord our God
Mighty King of Glory You have rescued us