

# CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

## AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Gastonia, North Carolina



Words for Silent Meditation before Worship  
*By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.*  
~Galatians 5:22-23~

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

May 2, 2021  
10:00 a.m.

## **WE COME TOGETHER**

CARILLON PEAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor John H. Stanley

PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Rebecca Groome te Velde

CALL TO WORSHIP (from John 15:5)

Christ is the vine.

**We are the branches.**

Those who abide in Christ, and Christ in them, bear much fruit.

**Because apart from Christ we can do nothing.**

†PRAISE HYMN

“Because of Your Love”

P. Baloché

## **WE APPROACH GOD**

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

**Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in living apart from you by wandering from your ways, wasting your gifts, and forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, as we confess what we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, walk in your ways, and bear good fruit for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior...**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

†GLORIA PATRI #581

GREATOREX

## **WE EMBRACE GOD'S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

## GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-11

## SERMON

“Good Fruit”

Rev. Fred Lyon

## RESPONSIVE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE (from Ephesians 3:20-21)

Now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or imagine,

to God be glory in the church through Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. AMEN.

## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

### 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](http://www.fpcgastonia.org/giving).)

### OFFERTORY

“Communion”

Girolamo Frescobald

### †DOXOLOGY #607

### †DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING (adapted from *Book of Common Worship*)

### THE PRESENTATION OF OUR CONFIRMANDS

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore

Anne Bradley Bing  
Mary Stewart Efird  
Sara James Jentsch

Thomas Vincent Jentsch  
James Forrest Kelly  
Madeline Clair Letts

Kyra Lauryn Osei-Boateng  
James Crawford (Ford) Poag, IV

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

Will you devote yourself to the church’s teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers?

## COVENANT OF THE CONGREGATION

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The New Creed, United Church of Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

## BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

## 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 (communion cups contain grape juice)

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

†CLOSING HYMN #377

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

HOUSTON

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Grand Choeur"

Theodore Salomé

†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

## **BECAUSE OF YOUR LOVE**

### Verse

As we come into Your presence  
We remember ev'ry blessing  
That You've poured out so freely from above  
Lifting gratitude and praises  
For compassion so amazing  
Lord we've come to give You thanks  
For all You've done

### Chorus

Because of Your love we're forgiven  
Because of Your love our hearts are clean  
We lift You up with songs of freedom  
Forever we're changed because of Your love

## **I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT**

### Verse 1

I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.

### Verse 2

I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)

### Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

### Verse 3

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INTRODUCING REV. DANIEL J. COMMERFORD

At our Congregational Meeting on April 18, we elected to call Rev. Daniel J. (Dan) Commerford as our new Senior Pastor and Head of Staff. Dan comes to us from First Presbyterian Church of Tequesta, Florida, where he has served for the past five years. Dan's first day will be Monday, July 5, 2021. To learn more about Dan and his family, please visit [www.fpcgastonia.org/pastoral-search!](http://www.fpcgastonia.org/pastoral-search!)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL VIDEO LESSON

Please join us online as Mary Layton presents this week's Sunday School video lesson titled, "Micaiah: Speaking Truth to Power." The video lesson premiered at 9:00 a.m. and is available on-demand following the initial broadcast. You can find this video, along with our pastoral and staff videos, at [www.fpcgastonia.org/videos](http://www.fpcgastonia.org/videos).

### SPRING FLING

Join us this evening from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for our Spring Fling! We will gather in the church parking lot for fellowship, food trucks, and fun! Participate in games and activities for the whole family, and share food from Will's Doggin' It, Bolton's Curbside Cookery, and Pelican's SnoBalls! Cost is \$5 per person, (with a family cap of \$20,) which includes a meal from one of the food trucks and a Pelican's SnoBall. Children aged 6 and under eat free. We hope to see you there!

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Tomorrow, May 3, the women of the church will host their Annual Birthday Luncheon in the church parking lot beginning at 12:00 p.m. Box lunches are provided by Spindle City Cafe and Guest speaker Loretta Dodgen will present. Join us as we celebrate the past year of ministry and mission!

### COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC

On Wednesday, May 5, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia Parish Nurse Ministry, and Medical Center Pharmacy are hosting a vaccination clinic in the Fellowship Hall. Church and community members age 16 and older are eligible to make an appointment to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Because this is a two-dose vaccine, follow-up appointments will be held at the same time on Wednesday, May 26, 2021.

Make your appointment today by visiting [bit.ly/covid-19-clinic](https://bit.ly/covid-19-clinic), or if you are not comfortable navigating the form online, contact Lisa Marisiddaiah at [nurse@fpcgastonia.org](mailto:nurse@fpcgastonia.org) to be assigned a time. Please include your name and phone number in your request.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE! ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Save the date! On Wednesday, May 12, we will host our second Ice Cream Social in the church parking lot. We invite you to join us between 6:30-7:30 p.m. for fellowship, ice cream treats, and a hymn sing-along!