

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD • GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

704.864.2651 • www.fpcgastonia.org • streaming live

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

May 22, 2022

Sixth Sunday of Easter

11:00 a.m. Worship

WE GATHER FOR GOD'S WORD

CARILLON PEAL

Please use this time to silently prepare for worship

PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION

"Improvisation and Chorale on AURELIA"

Robert Hobby

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

John saw a multitude from every land and tribe and nation.

Glory and power be to our God forever and ever!

The angels fell on their faces and worshiped the Lord.

Glory and power be to our God forever and ever!

The shepherd will guide the flock to the spring of water, and wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Glory and power be to our God forever and ever!

Let us worship God.

†HYMN #620

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

LAUDA ANIMA

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of everlasting life, we confess that we continue in the ways of death. We see you work in the world and still do not believe in you. We listen to other leaders and ignore your loving voice. Forgive us God of grace. Restore us to your flock so that we might believe and receive eternal and abundant life in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord...(silent confession)...Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Be at peace with God and one another, for in Christ, we are all forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

†GLORIA PATRI

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF ERNEST DAVID SUMNER, III

Ernest is the son of Sarah and Ernest Sumner, II. Elder Ernest Sumner presents his grandson for the Sacrament of Baptism on behalf of the Session.

COVENANT VOWS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BAPTISM

PRAYER OF BLESSING

WELCOME

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Zechariah 1:7-17

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Revelation 7:9-17

SERMON SERIES

Alpha and Omega

SERMON

"Heaven is a Wonderful Place"

Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #65

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

CWM RHONDDA

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from the Confession of Belhar)

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore

We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Tithes and offerings may be presented online at www.fpcgastonia.org/giving or by scanning the QR code on the right.



OFFERTORY

"Intermezzo on AURELIA"

Robert Hobby

†DOXOLOGY

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #326

"For All the Saints"

SINE NOMINE

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Toccata on AURELIA"

Robert Hobby

†If you are able, please stand.

WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church - where faith is alive! Your presence here is our honor and joy. We pray that your heart is encouraged, that the Word is clear, and that you go from this place renewed and refreshed - in search of an ever deeper connection with our awesome God! If you would like more information about First Presbyterian Church, please sign the welcome forms in your pew or stop by the welcome table to receive a gift in gratitude for your presence with us.

NURSERY CARE

Professional nursery care is offered for infants and children up to four years old. The nursery is located on the first floor; please see an usher for directions.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford - Senior Minister
Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore - Associate Minister
Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport - Interim Minister of Visitation
Mot Davis - Receptionist
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Caleb Hayes - Director of Communications
Holly Howell - Director of Children's Music
Bethany Jennings - Director of Music Ministries
David Jennings - Organist
Lisa Marisiddaiah - Parish Nurse
David McFadden - Business Administrator
Cheryl Mims - Director of Mothers' Morning Out
Nancy Moore - Financial Secretary
Sherry Moore - Administrative Assistant
Rodney Owens - Maintenance Supervisor
Becky Rowland - Director of Presbyterian Weekday School
Matt Smith - Thrive Music Leader
Trip Stewart - Information Services
Rev. Rachel Vogado - Director of Faith Formation

Traditional Worship Leaders Today

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford
Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore
Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport
Bethany Jennings
David Jennings
Sanctuary Choir

Thrive Worship Leaders Today

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford
Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore
Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport
Matt Smith
Thrive Band

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALPHA AND OMEGA

Today, May 22nd, we will be continuing our sermon series, "Alpha and Omega," with a new sermon titled, "Heaven is A Wonderful Place." Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport will be preaching from Zechariah 1:7-17 and Revelation 7:9-17.

GAP EVENT

Join us on May 24th at Southminster Church for food, fellowship, and updates on the ministry of presbytery. "The Food Truck," a healthy food ministry from Third Street Presbyterian Church, will provide lunch for a small fee. Executive Presbyter, Bryon Wade, will be present to update us on the mission of the presbytery. This is a great time to reorganize in community ministry and set the future for GAP.

For more information, contact Charles Davenport, Presbytery Associate, or the Southminster Church Office.

LOVE OFFERING

A love offering is being taken for Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore through May 29th. If you wish to give, please drop a check by the Business Office or leave in the offering plate. If you are writing a check, please put "love offering" in the memo.

COMBINED SERVICES

We will be shifting from two morning services to one combined service beginning on May 29th. The services will begin at 10:00 a.m. All services will be held in the sanctuary with the exceptions of May 29th, July 3rd, and Sept. 4th, which will be held outdoors if weather permits.

CELEBRATION RECEPTION

Everyone is invited to a reception to celebrate Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore and her family on June 5th following the 10:00 a.m. service.

FAITH AND FICTION

Faith and Fiction will meet on Sunday, June 5, at 5:00pm at Covenant Village. We will be discussing the book No Man's Land by David Baldacci. Our hostesses will be Lenise Melton and Geraldine Johnston. This will be our last meeting before our summer break. Please contact Sarah Wentz if you have questions or need a copy of the book.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will hold a congregational meeting on June 12th after the 10:00 a.m. service to dissolve terms of call for Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us this summer for Vacation Bible School! Register now to join the fun! Look for sign-ups for both children participants, and youth and adult volunteers in the Faith Formation weekly newsletter.

When: August 1-4, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

COVID GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

A group of licensed professional counselors have created a FREE support group open to all Gaston County residents. If you have suffered a loss unrelated to Coronovirus, you are also welcome. This is an open group, no RSVP needed.

Every other Thursday

June 2nd - September 22nd

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

First United Methodist Church

Room #218

THRIVE

May 22, 2022

8:55 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

† GATHERING SONG

"Revelation Song"

J. L. Riddle

WELCOME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

† HYMN OF PRAISE

"More Love To Thee"

Jones/Prentiss/Jones/Walker/Doane

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Zechariah 1:7-17

Revelation 7:9-17

SERMON SERIES

"Alpha and Omega"

SERMON

"Heaven is a Wonderful Place"

ANTHEM

"As It Is In Heaven"

Cash/Maher

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

† HYMN OF DEDICATION

"Great Are You Lord"

Leonard/Ingram/Jordan

† BLESSING