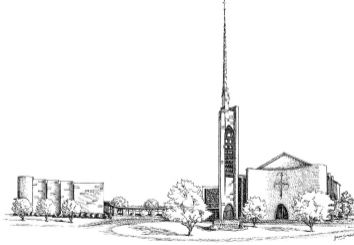


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

July 25, 2021

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Christmas in July

10:00 a.m. Worship

WE COME TOGETHER

CARILLON PEAL

ORGAN PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION

“Fugue on ADESTE FIDELIS”

John Hebden Schaffner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Cindy Marshall, Executive Director, Potter’s House

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 122)

Pastor John H. Stanley

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

In this place, we worship God together.

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

In this place, we gather as a community of faith.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”

In this place, we join together in prayer.

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”

In this place, we support one another on our journey of faith.

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

Come, let us worship God together!

†PRAISE HYMN #133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

WE APPROACH GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

SHARED PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you have given us the gift of Christ's church, a worldwide community of disciples. You have gathered us at First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia to embrace and share the Good News of Jesus Christ as a family of faith. We confess that we neglect this family. Too often, we look to your church only as a place to receive instead of an opportunity to participate.

Forgive us when we lose sight of our shared journey of faith. Help us to join together as brothers and sisters in Christ, relying on each other to strengthen our faith and continue Christ's ministry. Show us how to be the congregation you have called us to be!

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the Good News! God's love is as abundant as it is secure. Christ equips us to be his hands and feet in the world. Be at peace with God and one another, for in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

†GLORIA PATRI #581

GREATOREX

WE EMBRACE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 122

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 2:37-47

SERMON

"Called to Community"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

ANTHEM

"Christmas Hymn for the Church"

B.F. White/M. Smith

*In the city of King David, Christ was
born that night so cold
Come to ransom Israel's people,
that the prophets long foretold
To a virgin born was Jesus, In a
manger humble laid
Shepherds, Joseph, mother Mary,
Joined the angels singing praise*

*As a man He preached a message,
love and mercy giv'n to all
God's new covenant with humans,
Christ completing Moses' law
But the Pharisees convicted hung
Him on a cross to die
On the third day, resurrected from
the grave He rose in life*

*The disciples were all gathered
speaking tongues were face to face
"Let us spread the Gospel message
in communities of faith"
And today our church will follow,
called to Christ's commission great
Gathered worship, Word, and
mission, showing all His love and
grace*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostle's Creed)

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 online at www.fpcgastonia.org/giving or by scanning the QR code on the right.



OFFERTORY

“VENI EMMANUEL”

Noel Rawsthorne

†DOXOLOGY #607

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING

†SENDING HYMN #134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†ORGAN POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo (BWV 729)”

J.S. Bach

†If you are able, please stand.

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, 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 Barbara McNeil presents this week's Sunday School video lesson titled, "Justification Through Faith." 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 "Wednesday Wisdom" and other videos at www.fpcgastonia.org/videos.

NAME TAGS

Just a friendly reminder to get back in the habit of wearing your name tag each Sunday, so the Commerford Family can begin putting names with faces. Lost your name tag? Please contact Trip Stewart at tstewart@fpcgastonia.org.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY - GASTONIA POTTER'S HOUSE

This year for Christmas in July, we are collecting donations for Gastonia Potter's House! GPH is an 18-month residential program that provides a Christ-centered retreat for women suffering from addiction. While at GPH, women participate in Bible study, lectures, group therapy, and church services, and are encouraged to develop skills to help them reenter the workforce or further their education. GPH relies largely on donations and has requested the following items to help support its ministry:

All-purpose cleaner, envelopes #10 and #6 3/4, toilet cleaner, copy paper, Comet, ink (Brother 3037XXL; color and black), Clorox wipes twin bedding, paper towels, bath towels, tissues, Windex, Magic Erasers, laundry detergent, and Swifter refills.

The deadline for receiving donations will be this Friday, July 30. Donations may be placed under the Christmas tree in the Memorial Gallery. Monetary donations are also welcome. Please make checks payable to FPC with "Potter's House" on the memo line.

SECOND SUNDAY INTERGENERATIONAL BREAKFASTS

Be sure to join us for our final intergenerational breakfast on Sunday, August 8, at 9:00 a.m.! Adults, youth, and children will meet in the Fellowship Hall Portico where we will share a COVID-safe breakfast, fellowship, and participate in a lesson led by church staff. We look forward to seeing you then!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS AUGUST 2!

Vacation Bible School is almost here! First Presbyterian Church invites all children (Nursery - 5th Grade) to join us for four days of exciting music, amazing science, creative crafts, fun recreation, and memorable Bible stories that will help children know and share the light God shines in the world.

Vacation Bible School will run August 2 through August 5, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. If you have not already, please register ASAP! Visit www.fpcgastonia.org/children to register.

VOLUNTEER WITH CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

Crisis Assistance Ministry (CAM) is looking for volunteers to help pick up, pack, and organize food from local stores in its food room. Shifts are during operating hours (Monday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) and require some standing and light lifting. Call 704-867-8901 or visit camgastonia.com for more information.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Verse 1

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him,
born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

Verse 2

True God from true God,
Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

Verse 3

Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!
to hear the angels sing!

Verse 4

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

JOY TO THE WORLD

Verse 1

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 2

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Verse 3

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love