

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD • GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA  
704.864.2651 • [www.fpcgastonia.org](http://www.fpcgastonia.org) • streaming live

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

August 7, 2022

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Worship

### WE GATHER FOR GOD'S WORD

#### CARILLON PEAL

*Please use this time to silently prepare for worship.*

#### PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION

"Bread of Heaven"

Simon Lole

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

#### MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Vacation Bible School

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lance Perry

When the waters rise and the waves tower over us,

God is with us.

When we find ourselves on the highest mountain or the lowest valley,

God is with us.

When we experience amazing joy or unbearable pain,

God is with us.

Wherever we are and wherever we go,

God is with us.

Come, let us worship our Lord, who promises to never abandon us.

Together, let us worship God!

#### †OPENING SONG

"As We Gather At Your Table"

### WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we thank you for the amazing grace you have given us in Jesus Christ. In him, we know that your love is as strong as it is available to us. But we confess that we do not always remember your love for us. We become distracted with our pursuits of earthly treasures. We let our pride, fears, and desire for comfort lead us astray. Forgive us when we do not embrace your amazing grace. Help us to remember your love for us in all our moments, so that we may embrace it and share it with others...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

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Rachel H. Vogado

*Following the message, children through third grade may depart for Children's Church. They will return during the musical offering following the sermon.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 23

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 8:38-39

### SERMON SERIES

Amazing Grace

### SERMON

"Divine Reminders"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### †HYMN #803

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

RESIGNATION

### †AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Westminster Confession of Faith, 6.149)

Sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace, immediately instituted by God, to represent Christ and his benefits, and to confirm our interest in him: as also to put a visible difference between those that belong unto the church, and the rest of the world; and solemnly to engage them to the service of God in Christ, according to his 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.

### CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Tithes and offerings may be presented online at [www.fpcgastonia.org/giving](http://www.fpcgastonia.org/giving) or by scanning the QR code on the right.



### OFFERTORY

"Communion"

Cesar Franck

†DOXOLOGY

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION OF THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. (Pastor continues in prayer...)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #500

"Be Known to Us is Breaking Bread"

FEED US

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

†POSTLUDE

"Excerpt from Concerto in A Minor"

J.S. Bach

†If you are able, please stand.

**Leading worship today:**

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

Rev. Lance Perry

Rev. Rachel H. Vogado

Matt Smith

David Jennings

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COMBINED SERVICES THIS SUMMER

We will be having combined services throughout the summer in the sanctuary at 10 am until September 4.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Immediately following the worship service, we will be holding a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing the next class of elders, deacons, and nominating committee.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

Join us for our last Wednesday Night Alive concert of the summer on August 10th at 6:30! Bethany and David Jennings will lead us in singing the hymn selection highlighted in our last sermon series, "This is My Story, This is My Song." Additional hymns will be included in the form of audience requests.

### NICKEL-A-MEAL

Are you saving your nickels? Our next Nickel-A-Meal offering is coming up on August 14! Be sure to bring your change and your "green" to support this wonderful ministry that provides meals for the hungry, both in our region and worldwide. Just look for the red buckets during the worship service!

### SECOND SUNDAY INTERGENERATIONAL BREAKFAST

Join us for an intergenerational Sunday School at 9 am on August 14 in the Fellowship Hall! Adults, youth, and children are all invited to share a light breakfast, fellowship, and participate in a lesson to help us all hear and celebrate the Good News together!

### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

As the new school year begins, let's start with a blessing! All students are invited to bring their backpacks to worship on August 14th to pray for the new school year and receive a special blessing to carry with them through the year.

### PRESBYTERIAN WEEKDAY SCHOOL

PWS Teachers return on August 31. Orientation days with families are September 1 and 2. The first day of pre-school is September 6.

### FAITH AND FICTION

Faith and Fiction will meet again on September 4 to discuss the book A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles. If you would like a copy to read beforehand, please contact Sarah Wentz.

### SPECIAL MUSIC GUEST

Save the date for September 18. Our special guest, David LaMotte, will lead our Thrive worship and will give a concert later that evening at 6 pm.

### FREE COVID SUPPLIES

COVID numbers are rising everywhere and Gaston County has elevated also. Our Parish Nurse has provided a full box of face masks that are FREE to all church members who may need them.

We are no longer doing COVID testing at First United Methodist Church. Should you need an official COVID test, please visit <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/FindTests> for a list of places where you can find one.

## **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.

## **PASTORAL STAFF OFFICE HOURS\***

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford	Mondays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*
Rev. Lance Perry	Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*
Rev. Rachel Vogado	Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*
Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport	Tuesdays and Fridays by appointment

\*The pastoral staff is available to meet throughout the week by appointment. If you would like to get in touch with them outside of office hours, please send them an email or call the church office.

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford - Senior Pastor  
Rev. Lance Perry - Interim Associate Pastor  
Rev. Rachel Vogado - Director of Faith Formation  
Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport - 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

## MUSIC LYRICS

### OPENING SONG

“As We Gather At Your Table”

As we gather at Your table  
As we listen to Your word  
Help us know O God Your presence  
Let our hearts and minds be stirred  
Nourish us with sacred story  
Till we claim it as our own  
Teach us through this holy banquet  
How to make Love's vict'ry known

Turn our worship into witness  
In the sacrament of life  
Send us forth to love and serve You  
Bringing peace where there is strife  
Give us Christ Your great compassion  
To forgive as You forgave  
May we still behold Your image  
In the world You died to save

Gracious Spirit help us summon  
Other guests to share that feast  
Where triumphant Love will welcome  
Those who had been last and least  
There no more will envy blind us  
Nor will pride our peace destroy  
As we join with saints and angels  
To repeat the sounding joy