

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD • GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

704.864.2651 • www.fpcgastonia.org • streaming live

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 10, 2021

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

11:00 a.m. Worship

WE GATHER FOR GOD'S WORD

CARILLON PEAL

PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Diane Bish

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

STEWARDSHIP SEASON: RENEW

Lewis Efird, Chair of Finance

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor John H. Stanley

God does not desire our extravagant worship,

God does not desire our transactional offerings.

What does the Lord require?

That we enact justice, outdo one another in kindness, and humbly seek God's grace.

Although we are dead through our sin, we proclaim that Christ gives us New Life.

For by grace we have been saved through faith.

Come, then, let us gather to worship the Lord,

Whose steadfast love endures forever!

†HYMN #307

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

CWM RHONDDA

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we confess that we often try to buy your love like a product off the shelf. We try to earn your favor with our good deeds, our outward appearance, and with our monetary offerings. All the while, we lose sight of what it means to depend upon your gracious love you have shown us in Jesus Christ. Create in us a clean heart, O God. Help us build our faith that relies on you alone to save us. Show us how faith in you leads to inward and outward transformation. *Silent confession...*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

Thanks be to God!

†GLORIA PATRI

COMMISSIONING OF MISSION DISCIPLES

Brian Schroeder and Betsy Keith

ANTHEM

“Offertory”

John Ness Beck

With what shall I come before
the Lord,
And bow myself before God
on high?
Shall I come before Him with
burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with
yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with
thousands of rams,
With ten thousand rivers of
oil?
Shall I give my first-born for
my transgressions,
The fruit of my body for the
sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O man,
He has shown you what is
good.
And what does the Lord re-
quire of you
But to do justice and to love
kindness,
And to walk humbly with your
God?

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Micah 6:6-8

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Ephesians 2:1-10

SERMON SERIES

The Five Solas of the Reformation

SERMON

“Faith Alone”

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #39

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

MC KEE

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from the Westminster Larger Catechism, 1648)

Rev. Lauren S. Vanacore

How does faith justify us sinners in the sight of God?

Faith justifies us sinners in the sight of God, not because of those other graces which do always accompany it, nor of good works that are the fruits of it, nor as if the grace of faith, or any act thereof, are given to us for our justification; but only as it is an instrument by which we receive and apply Christ and his righteousness.

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

“Pavane (The Earl of Salisbury)”

William Byrd

†DOXOLOGY

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #39

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” (Refrain Only)

MC KEE

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

“Toccatà in E minor”

Johann Pachelbel

†If you are able, please stand.

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore, Pastor John H. Stanley,
Bethany Jennings, Suzanne Lowry, Sanctuary Choir

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL VIDEO LESSON

Please join us online as Bob Blake presents this week's Sunday School video lesson titled, "Praise God for Justice and Righteousness." The video lesson will premiere at 10:00 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.

CHRISMON WORKSHOPS

FPC Gastonia is working on a project to enhance our worship experience this Advent, but we need your help! Join us for one (or more) of our Chrismon workshops this fall! The next two workshops will take place on October 17, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m. Each 2-hour class will feature a different Chrismon ornament with a goal of creating 100 ornaments this year. One or two facilitators will be present to help you through the process and all materials will be provided. Sign up using the link in the Friday E-Blast or contact the church office. If you have questions, please call Barbara Yarbrough at 704-867-0887 or 704-900-4510 or email byarbrough03@gmail.com.

CALLING ALL FPC RINGERS AND SINGERS!

The FPC Sanctuary Choir and Sanctuary Ringers have resumed weekly rehearsals! Both groups will meet on Wednesdays, but rehearsal times have shifted so to not interfere with WNA programming. Ringers will meet at 5:35 p.m. in the Journey classroom and Singers will meet at 7:15 p.m. in the Choir room. Prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents this fall. We promise you won't be asked to sing by yourself!

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE! SERIES

Join us this Wednesday night as we continue our study series, "Half Truths" by Adam Hamilton. During this series we will discuss and explore popular sayings that ultimately miss the point. You've heard phrases like: "Everything happens for a reason," "God won't give you anything you can't handle," and "Hate the sin, love the sinner," but how do these phrases compare to the wisdom found in scripture? Find out in this six-week series! Fellowship will begin outside the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Nursery care and children's programming will also be provided.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS EVENT

On Thursday, October 14, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. join us in-person in the Fellowship Hall or on Livestream at www.fpcgastonia.org/parish-nurse-ministry for our awareness event, "Behind Closed Doors." Special guest speaker is author and domestic violence survivor, Cassandra Farmer. Free dinner and childcare will be provided for those who RSVP to (704) 864-2651 by October 7.

TRAUMA-INFORMED YOGA

On Tuesday, October 19, at 6:30 p.m. join us in the Fellowship Hall for Trauma-informed Yoga, led by Rachel Harper. Open to all but with a focus on survivors of trauma and PTSD, we will work to create breath and body awareness and to learn tools to calm our nervous system. The first 20 people to sign up will receive a free yoga mat! Contact Lisa Marisiddaiah at nurse@fpcgastonia.org for more information!

CELEBRATION FOR PASTOR JOHN H. STANLEY

You are invited to join us on Reformation Sunday, October 31, as we celebrate John and Rose Stanley on their last Sunday among us. One combined service will be held in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m., with a reception immediately following at 11:00 a.m. During this service, John will conclude our October sermon series by preaching on "Glory to God Alone." Join us as we give thanks for John's ministry here at First Presbyterian Church!

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.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Task Force met on Monday, September 20, to review recent COVID-19 data and assess current recommendations and procedures. We found that COVID-19 rates continue to be dangerously high in our community, particularly with an increase in deaths during the week of September 12-18. We urge members and friends of the congregation to remain vigilant and act with caution when gathering in large groups and indoor spaces. We would especially like to reiterate the importance of social distancing and mask wearing in these settings. For this reason, **we continue to strongly urge all congregants to wear masks indoors and social distance while attending any First Presbyterian Church event.** As always, if you feel unwell we encourage you to stay home and worship with us via Livestream. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

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.

WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Worship activity boards and age-appropriate books related to the scripture lessons are available in the Narthex, near the entrance to the Sanctuary.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford - Senior Minister
Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore - Associate Minister
Pastor John H. Stanley - Minister of Visitation
Celeste Crowe - Director of Communications
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Bethany Jennings - Director of Music Ministries
David Jennings - Organist
Lisa Marisiddaiah - Parish Nurse
David McFadden - Business Administrator
Cheryl Mims - Director of Mothers' Morning Out
Sherry Moore - Administrative Assistant
Rodney Owens - Maintenance Supervisor
Becky Rowland - Director of Presbyterian Weekday School
Saundra Scott-McCray - Receptionist
Matt Smith - Thrive Music Leader
Trip Stewart - Information Services
Rev. Rachel Vogado - Director of Faith Formation

THRIVE

October 10, 2021

8:55 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG

"Open Up The Heavens"

McDonald/Ingram/Andrews/Garrard/Rozier

WELCOME

STEWARDSHIP SEASON: RENEW

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Our God"

Redman/Myrin/Tomlin/Reeves

WE EMBRACE GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Micah 6:6-8

Ephesians 2:1-10

SERMON SERIES

The Five Solas of the Reformation

SERMON

"Faith Alone"

ANTHEM

"Hope Now"

R. Gregg

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION

"God Is Able"

Fielding/Morgan

†BLESSING

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore, Pastor John H. Stanley,
Matt Smith, Thrive Band