

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENSBORO, GEORGIA

Sunday, April 16, 2017 Easter Sunday

Elder of the Month: Cheri Moore Director of Music: Donna Kicklighter

Pastor: Rev. Alex Stevens

RINGING OF THE HOUR *(Please be seated.)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP:

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Glory to you, O God. On this day You won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ. For us and for our salvation You overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to You O Holy Spirit. You led us into the truth.

Glory to You, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever.

***HYMN #232** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the dead, You shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the way that leads to death. Forgive us God of mercy. Enable us to trust Your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant, given in Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord. Hear us as we confess in silence.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Spirit of the Living God* *(insert)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Glorious Lord of life, by the mighty resurrection of Your Son, You overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him. As we celebrate with joy Christ's rising from the dead, we celebrate also that we are raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Christians, we are forgiven. Amen

People: Amen

* **PEACE OF CHRIST**

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Apostles' Creed* *(insert)*

* **GLORIA PATRI** *(insert)*

OFFERING

Invitation to give

Offertory

* Doxology *(insert)*

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

* **HYMN** *Up From the Grave He Arose* *(insert)*

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson

Anthem

Gospel Lesson

Sermon

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Lift High the Cross

John 21:1-18

He Has Risen From the Dead

Cheri Moore

p. 733

Choir

p. 115

Rev. Alex Stevens

* **HYMN** *He Lives* *(insert)*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

And all God's children said,

People: Alleluia! Amen!

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN** *He Lives* *(refrain)*

* Those who are able, please stand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM PASTOR STEVENS:

Pastor Stevens wants to develop a list of elders who would like to help serve communion to shut-ins on a regular basis. Please let Alex know if you would like to help with this important ministry.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH: Mark your calendars and be sure to plan to join us on April 23rd for a covered dish lunch. Fried chicken will be provided so that you can focus on your best side dish or dessert. Covered dish lunch is about more than food though; it's an opportunity to enjoy a visit with friends and to invite a neighbor to join us for worship and fellowship.

MEN OF THE CHURCH: We will meet for our monthly lunch at Pickle Barrel on Tuesday, April 25, at 11:30 AM. James Graham will be our host. Bring a friend.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Our April Meeting will be on Thursday, April 20th, at 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be "The Story of the Bible." Invite a friend. Invite a neighbor. Invite the lady sitting behind you today in church!

FELLOWSHIP CLASS: Join us as we study together at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall. This month, we will begin a new study, Gospel in Life, from Tim Keller. It should be interesting and practical. No homework, no stress.

ELDERS: Cheri Moore – Fellowship, James Graham - Congregational Care, Jan Brazier – Worship, Alex Brazier – Facilities, Noble Usherwood – Education, Marie Boswell - Missions, Brooke Hinds - Clerk of Session

SHORTER CATECHISM

Questions 13 through 19 address the subject of sin, Adam's role and the consequences for all mankind. Today's questions, 20 and 21, tell us that God did not abandon us to sin but sent us a redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Q. 20 Did God leave all mankind to perish in the state of sin and misery?

A. God, having out of His mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into an estate of salvation by a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a redeemer.

Q: 21 Who is the redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

These are questions which tax our ability to comprehend. Praise God that He does not demand our understanding but instead extends to us His grace. Thanks be to God.

SERVICE MUSIC AND LITURGY

Spirit of the Living God

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me*

Apostles' Creed

*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 * (universal
church)*

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; World without end. Amen, Amen

Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be
done in 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen*

O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. (Book of Common Worship, PCUSA)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Our military personnel	Doris Birdsong, Andrew Boswell's sister
Dell Boettger, Jane's cousin	David Blough, who has cancer
Scotty Brazier	Nancy Jo Durham, Judy Boswell's sister
Lanie Epps Whitt	Becky Dennis
Lindsey Walker	Lucy Lathrop
Orphan Aid Liberia	Adair Moore, Jimmy's older brother
Johnnie Satterfield	Mildred Tietjen
Charlotte Moore, Beth Lewis' friend	Russell Gober, a friend of the Epps family
Jon Carter, friend of Billy Wood	Chris Sandoval, Beth's son-in-law in San Antonio, TX

Seth Cooper, Vivian Ferland's brother, and her sister, who are both very ill
Ed Lewis, at Eatonton Health and Rehabilitation
Carey Wickland, at Presbyterian Village Memory Unit
Jean Coleman, friend of the Satterfields
Nancy Gloege and Roger. Nancy has been diagnosed with cancer.
Chuck Edwards, Alex Brazier's brother-in-law who has suffered a relapse.

PRAISES: He is risen! He is risen indeed!

How do you picture Resurrection morning? As you see Jesus come out of the grave, do you see Him calmly pushing aside the stone, stepping out of the dark and blinking at the sun? I don't!

I picture Him bursting out of the tomb in a flash of cosmic energy with His fist in the air and triumph on His lips! We win!!! It was never in doubt, but now it's accomplished!

Donna has chosen one of my favorite hymns for this morning's worship. It was composed by Robert Lowry in 1874. We sang it at the church I grew up in. Maybe you know it.

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord.

Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus my Savior.

He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord.

The song leader at our church would pause and then we would explode with the chorus,

UP from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes.

He arose a victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever with His saints to reign.

And then, in our loudest singing voices,

"HE AROSE! HE AROSE! ALLELUIA, CHRIST AROSE!" Alleluia, indeed!

Susie Pressley