

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENSBORO, GEORGIA

Sunday, May 14, 2017 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Elder of the Month: Noble Usherwood Director of Music: Donna Kicklighter

Pastor: Rev. Alex Stevens

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

PRELUDE *Here I Am, Lord*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the good news—the grave is empty; Christ is risen. This is the good news—the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

This is the good news—once we were no people; now we are God’s people.

Christ is our peace, let us worship the Lord in peace and joy!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

O God, grant that even when we do not recognize You, our hearts will burn within us, and that when feeling is lost, we may cling in faith to Your presence proclaimed by word and deed, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN #321** *The Church’s One Foundation*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

At times, we deny you, O God. When the risks of discipleship are high, we are often nowhere to be found: Forgive us, we pray. When we wash our hands of responsibility, when we cast our lot with the powerful oppressors and seek to buy freedom with silver: Forgive us, we pray. When fear keeps us from witnessing to Your truth, or prejudice keeps us from believing it: Forgive us, we pray. In the bright light of the Resurrection, our sin is exposed, and Your grace is revealed. Tender God, raise us in Your love so that, with joy, we may witness to Your awesome deeds, in the name of the risen one, Jesus the Christ.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We know that we were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from our ancestors with the precious blood of Christ. Through Him, we have come to trust in God, who raised Christ from the dead and gave Him glory so that our faith and hope are set on God. Hallelujah! **People: Amen!**

*** PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

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

OFFERING

Invitation to give

Offertory *El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty)*

* Doxology *(insert)*

Prayer of Dedication

***Hymn #310** *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16

New Testament Lesson Acts 7: 55-60

Anthem *Headin’ For the Promised Land*

Epistle Lesson 1 Peter 2: 2-10

Sermon *We Are Living Stones*

Marie Boswell

Pew Bible, p. 505

Pew Bible, p. 126

Choir

Pew Bible, p. 233

Rev. De Rodgers

*** HYMN #463** *How Firm a Foundation*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND LORD’S PRAYER

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

And all God’s children said:

People: Alleluia! Amen

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *He Lives (insert)*

*** Those who are able, please stand.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM PASTOR STEVENS: Pastor Stevens is developing a list of elders who will serve communion to shut-ins on a regular basis. Please let Alex know if you would like to help with this important ministry.

PW: Through the month of May, Presbyterian Women will be sewing dresses for the orphans in Liberia on Mondays at 1 p.m. We'll work until mid-afternoon; please come and join us. Bring your scissors – all other materials are provided.

FELLOWSHIP CLASS: Join us as we study *The Gospel in Life* at 9:45 in the Fellowship hall. No homework, no stress!

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

SHORTER CATECHISM

Q. 30. How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. 30. The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ by producing faith in us and by this uniting us to Christ in our effective calling.

References

Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 Cor. 2:12-16; Ephesians 2:8; Ephesians 3:17; Philippians 1:29; John 15:5

Comment on Q. 30.

Faith in Christ means trust in Christ and brings about union with Him. The faith by which we commit ourselves to Christ is the result of the work of God's Spirit in our hearts.

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

Congregational Response

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today.

He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.

He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart.

You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart!

The basic purpose of prayer is not to bend God's will to mine, but to mold my will into His.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Dell Boettger, Jane's cousin David Blough, who has cancer
Scotty Brazier Jon Carter, friend of Billy Wood
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 Nancy Gloege
Chris Sandoval, Beth's son-in-law in San Antonio,
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
Russell Gober, a friend of the Epps family
The family of Earl Priegle
Amy Kicklighter Royals, who is recovering from spinal meningitis
Gary Pressley, who has advanced Parkinson's disease
Rolly and Sheri Clark's daughter, Carrie, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

God will only give you what you would have asked for if you knew everything He knows.
(Tim Keller)

*Whoever wants to embrace life and see the day fill up with good,
Here's what you do: say nothing evil or hurtful;
Snub evil and cultivate good; run after peace for all you're worth.
God looks on all this with approval, listening and responding well to what He's asked;
But He turns his back on those who do evil things. (1 Peter 3: 12)*

