

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENSBORO, GEORGIA

Sunday, May 28, 2017 Ascension Sunday

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

Pastor: Rev. Alex Stevens

RINGING OF THE HOUR

(Please be seated.)

PRELUDE

How Majestic Is Thy Name

WELCOME

PRAYER OF ADORATION/CALL TO WORSHIP: taken from Psalm 68

Blessed are you, O Lord, daily you bear us up; You are our salvation.

You, Lord, are a God of salvation; in you we have eternal life and escape from death.

Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

Sing to God, sing praises to His name; lift up a song to Him who rides upon the clouds... His name is the Lord... be exultant before Him.

Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over all; and whose power is in the skies.

awesome is God in His sanctuary, the God of Israel; He gives power and strength to His people.

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord!

Blessed is God! Let us all praise the Lord!

*** HYMN #35**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Hear us now, Lord, as we pray silently to you...

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Spirit of the Living God (insert)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

People: Amen

*** PEACE OF CHRIST**

*** GLORIA PATRI**

(insert)

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed (insert)

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory

We Are an Offering

* Doxology

(insert)

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

*** HYMN # 275**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Lesson

Anthem

Gospel Lesson

Sermon

1 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11

I know That My Redeemer Lives

John 17:1-11

The High Priestly Prayer

Noble Usherwood

pew Bible p. 235

pew Bible p. 111

Rev. Alex Stevens

*** HYMN # 741**

Guide My Feet

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

And all God's children said,

People: Alleluia! Amen!

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

He Lives

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.

* (Those who are able, please stand.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please note that announcements and prayer changes need to be forwarded to Pastor Alex at either 678-897-2299 or waastevens@gmail.com preferably by Monday afternoon, but no later than Thursday morning.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC: Plan now to join us for our annual church picnic on June 4, 2017, 11:00 at Old Salem Park. Fried chicken and tea will be provided so bring a picnic side dish. There will be no worship service in Greensboro this day. There will be a short discussion on what it means to be FPOG.

FELLOWSHIP CLASS: "Every one of us is, even from his mother's womb, a master craftsman of idols." (John Calvin) Join us as we study "The Gospel in Life" at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall. No homework, no stress.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN: The men will meet at 11:30 on Tuesday, May 30 at the Pickle Barrel. All men, please come and enjoy the fellowship.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 11, immediately following the worship service for the purpose electing people to an officer nominating committee, which will nominate people to complete Elder Boswell's term, three people to a two year term for elder and to populate a slate of candidates for the PNC.

CHOIR: The choir will practice on Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

FLOWERS: To provide flowers for the church, please see the list in the narthex or speak to Eileen Usherwood or Ann Corry. Eileen and Ann want you to know that they would welcome flowers from your yard, a blooming plant or a lovely green houseplant, every bit as much as an arrangement from a florist. To include a note honoring or remembering someone in the bulletin, please contact the pastor or lay reader.

CREEDS OF THE CHURCH, PCUSA: THE SHORTER CATECHISM

Questions 29 through 31 speak of the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation. Christ has purchased redemption for us, but it is the Holy Spirit who actually puts us in possession of it by producing faith in us. This is the effective call of our Sovereign God. Questions 32 through 35 explain the results of salvation in specific terms.

Q. 32. What benefits in this life are shared by those who are effectively called? A. In this life, those who are effectively called share in justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the further benefits in this life which accompany or flow from them.

Q. 33. What is justification? A. Justification is an act of God's free grace in which He pardons all our sins and accepts us as righteous in His sight for the sake of the righteousness of Christ alone, which is credited to us and received by faith alone.

Q. 34. What is adoption? A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace by which we are received into the number and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God. (*Comment on Q. 34. The believer is not only declared righteous; he is also brought into God's family, and once so brought by God's grace he is there forever.*)

Q. 35. What is sanctification? A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace by which we are renewed throughout in the image of God and are enabled more and more to die to sin and live to righteousness. (*Sanctification means "The process of being made holy – set apart for God." It is God who makes us holy. Our lives demonstrate that holiness. Sanctification renews us, making us what God meant us to be in the beginning.*)

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

However many blessings we expect from God, His infinite liberality will always exceed all our wishes and our thoughts. (John Calvin)

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. (Romans 12:12)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Our military personnel	Doris Birdsong, Andrew Boswell's sister
Dell Boettger, Jane Epps'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	Jean Coleman, friend of the Satterfields
Mildred Tietjen	Charlotte Moore, Beth Lewis' friend
Carey Wickland	Nancy Gloege
Ed Lewis	Chris Sandoval, Beth Lewis's son-in-law
Seth Cooper, Vivian Ferland's brother, and her sister, who are both very ill	
Gary Pressley, Kenneth's brother at Eatonton Health and Rehabilitation	

All that we call human history—money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery—is the long, terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy. (C. S. Lewis)

May the peace of God go with you, wherever He may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into His arms. Amen.