

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENSBORO, GEORGIA

Sunday, December 31, 2017

First Sunday after Christmas

Elder of the Month: Jan Brasier

Musician: Joan Stevens Pastor: Rev. Alex Stevens

RINGING OF THE HOUR

(Please be seated)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Almighty God, You have shed upon us the new light of Your Incarnate Word.

May this light be enkindled in our hearts and shine forth in our lives;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Light of the World has come, let us worship the Lord!

* HYMN #192

Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Hear us now, Lord, as we pray silently to You...

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Spirit of the Living God (insert)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:17

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, and 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.

People: Amen.

* PEACE OF CHRIST

* GLORIA PATRI

(insert)

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed (insert)

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory

* Doxology

(insert)

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN #370

This Is My Father's World

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Congregational Hymn

New Testament

Sermon

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Galatians 4:4-7

Heirs, through God

Brooke Hinds

pew Bible p. 692

Hymn # 39

pew Bible p. 189

Rev. Alex Stevens

*HYMN #450

Be Thou My Vision

CHARGE AND BLESSING

And all God's children said,

People: Alleluia! Amen!

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn # 192 *(Refrain only)*

Shine, Jesus Shine, fill this land with the Father's glory. Blaze, Spirit blaze,; set our hearts on fire. Flow, river flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy. Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

* (Those who are able, please stand.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST AND ANNOUNCEMENTS should be forwarded to Pastor Alex at either 678-897-2299 or waastevens@gmail.com.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY is a local mission project that knits/crochets shawls to be given to those in need of our remembrance. For information, contact Brooke Hinds at 762-445-1006.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS WILL RESUME next Sunday, 1/7/18, at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Join us and learn. No homework. No stress.

THE MONTHLY LADIES LUNCH has been cancelled for January due to the busyness of the holiday season. However, we hope that all of the ladies can join us for the next monthly lunch at the Iron Fork scheduled for Friday, February 2nd, at 11:30 a.m.

FLOWERS To provide flowers for the church, please see the list in the narthex and speak to Eileen Usherwood or Ann Corry.

GATHERING OF FRIENDS to celebrate Carey Wickland's life on Saturday, January 6th from 4 to 6 pm at The Reynolds Lake Club ballroom. Directions: Turn at the light at Linger Longer Road toward Reynolds and come to the security gate. Tell them you are going to the Carey Wickland "Gathering of Friends" event at the Lake Club. They will give you directions from there.

THE CHOIR will meet 1/7 at 10:30 am in the sanctuary to rehearse a hymn for that day.

MANY THANKS to our readers, soloists, children's choir, Karen Hamilton, our guest pianist, and to ALL who helped with our Christmas Eve service. To God be the glory!

THE CHRISTMAS JOY GIFT OFFERING supports ministers, church workers and their families who are in need. Please consider supporting this fund.

IN LIEU OF THE CATECHISM: Let's stop for a few minutes before or after the service today to appreciate our beautiful sanctuary in all its Christmas glory. Every element seems to resound with the message of God's grace. The building itself is designed with purpose to display God's message to His people. The height of the ceiling and the tall windows showing a wide expanse of sky draw our attention away from our small selves toward Him. The shape of the ceiling suggests the hull of a boat – an ark, if you will. The simplicity of architecture and ornamentation focus our attention on the few items at the front of the church. The pulpit and the Bible stand remind us of the centrality of the Word. The Baptismal Font and the Lord's Table remind us of the Sacraments Jesus commanded. The cross hangs over all to focus our attention and our minds on Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on our behalf. 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*

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*

The 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.*

[* the word catholic means universal]

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

When you depart this sanctuary, you enter the mission field.

MISSION STATEMENT (where we are now)

We are disciples of Jesus Christ reaching out through mission and warm, welcoming fellowship to individuals of various communities of the Greene County area.

VISION STATEMENT (where we are in the future)

To be the church of choice to the very rapidly growing population of the Greene County area: the active adult community.

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *William Temple (1881-1944)*

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, but always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

John 8:12

Jesus said: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Veterans and military personnel	Doris Birdsong, Andrew Boswell's sister
Dell Boettger, Jane Epps's cousin	David Blough, cancer recovery
Scotty Brazier	Nancy Jo Durham, Judy Boswell's sister
Lanie Epps Whitt	Becky Dennis
Lindsey Walker	Lucy Lathrop, Vivian Ferland's sister
Orphan Aid Liberia	Adair Moore, Jimmy Moore's brother
Johnnie Satterfield	The Owens family (friends of Linda Fowler)
Mildred Tietjen	The Wickland family in their grief
Nancy Gloege	Ed Lewis
Stephen Jackson	Chris Sandoval, Beth Lewis's son-in-law
Chris Penna, surgery recovery	Gary Pressley
Bill Corry	Linda Fowler, health concerns
Victims of trauma	Pastor Nominating Committee
Matthew Ingram's grandmother	Susie Pressley, ankle surgery January 4