

First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro

February 25, 2018 Second Sunday in Lent

Music Director: Jean Gómez Elder of the Month Noble Usherwood

Guest Preacher: Rev. Ford G'Segner

PRELUDE

WELCOME

* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

INTROIT *Come Christians Join to Sing (insert)*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 22:23-31 (The Message)

Here's the story I'll tell my friends when they come to worship, and punctuate it with Hallelujahs: Shout Hallelujah, you God-worshippers; give glory, you sons of Jacob; adore him, you daughters of Israel.

He has never let you down, never looked the other way when you were being kicked around. He has never wandered off to do his own thing; he has been right there, listening.

Here in this great gathering for worship I have discovered this praise-life. And I'll do what I promised right here in front of the God-worshippers.

Down-and-outers sit at GOD's table and eat their fill. Everyone on the hunt for God is here, praising him. "Live it up, from head to toe. Don't ever quit!"

From the four corners of the earth people are coming to their senses, are running back to GOD. Long-lost families are falling on their faces before him. GOD has taken charge; from now on he has the last word.

All the power-mongers are before him —worshiping! All the poor and powerless, too —worshiping! Along with those who never got it together —worshiping!

Our children and their children will get in on this as the word is passed along from parent to child. Babies not yet conceived will hear the good news—that God does what he says.

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PRAYER OF ADORATION

Eternal God, your tortured Son felt abandoned, and cried out in anguish from the cross, yet you delivered him. He overcame the bonds of death and rose in triumph from the grave. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you. Feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of the oppressed, that your people may rejoice in your saving deeds. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

* **HYMN # 305** *Come Sing, O Church*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How reluctant we are to answer the call to confession. Quickly we turn our thoughts to something else instead of faithfully assessing where we have been and what we have done. As we speedily disconnect ourselves from advertising calls, so too do we want to disconnect from admitting our shortcomings to God. But our God is a loving God and listens with love. Let us therefore open our hearts and let God in.

We confess, O God, that we have wandered off the pathway as we have journeyed through Lent. We confess that we are stuck in the middle and have lost sight of our good intentions. We made the vow to be in prayer for 15 minutes each day during Lent and find ourselves instead busier than ever, running from appointment to appointment and from cell phone to laptop. We talk with everyone but you. We confess that we have fallen short of our goal to eat better during this time of reflection and regrouping. And we have failed to stick to

the plan we had to exercise faithfully as we journey with you during Lent. God of second chances, as we pause in the middle, shake us up and turn us forward to walk with you in the light of your love that we might ultimately share this light and love with others.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Hear our Prayer, O Lord"

Hear our Prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen my friends to this good news: God loves us no matter what. Take heart in the knowledge that God's grace is ours. Arise therefore in the knowledge that you are forgiven of your shortcomings and granted new life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination

Noble Usherwood

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16 pew Bible p. 13

New Testament

Romans 4:13–25 pew Bible p. 155

Anthem

His Glorious Name

Choir

Sermon

"A Shared Family Tree"

Ford G'Segner

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

* **HYMN #216** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

OFFERING

Invitation to give

Offertory

* Doxology

* Lord's Prayer *(insert)*

* Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Join me as we pray for our community and the world.

People: Comfort and relieve, O Lord, all who are in trouble, sorrow, poverty, sickness, or grief, especially those known to us, whom we name before you in silence (A moment of silence while we each call to mind the names of those for whom we pray)

God of grace and hope, we thank You for life, love, and good memories, for the gift of age, and for the wisdom that comes from experience.

Give us the courage and faith to accept life as it comes, confident that the future is Yours and that we belong to You forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* **HYMN #765 vs 1,2** *May the God of Hope Go With Us*

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** And all God's children said: **Alleluia! Amen!**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 765** (last vs) *May the God of Hope Go With Us*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: We welcome our friend Rev. Ford G'Seger to our pulpit this morning.
We thank Rev G'Segar for planning the readings and prayers in today's service.

If you are visiting us today, we extend a warm welcome in the name of Christ. We are delighted you have chosen to join us. Please fill out a visitor's card so that we can welcome you personally. To learn more about us please check our website at fpog.org. Large print hymnals and audio devices are available at the rear of the church.

MEN OF THE CHURCH: MOC meet on the last Tuesday of each month. We will meet this Tuesday, Feb 27 at 11:30 at the Pickle Barrel. Hap Tietjen will be our host.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Please join us at 9:45 in the Fellowship Building as we continue our Lenten study "Path To The Cross", by Ray Vanderlaan. No homework. No stress.

MISSIONS: First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro supports numerous mission organizations throughout the year. Every week or so we'll look at one of these ministries.

ATLAS Ministry, Inc. is a non-denominational Christian organization serving Greensboro, Georgia and the surrounding area. "We are Christ-centered, prayer-based, spirit-led, mentor-based, non-denominational, locally governed and supported. On the road of life we all, at some point, fall into a pothole. Most of us have an infrastructure of relationships and family that extend that helping hand. But many don't. ATLAS exists to extend a hand of faith and love to those needing it."

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Join us as we crochet and knit prayer shawls to give to those who need our prayers and remembrance. To learn more contact Brooke Hinds at spenbrooke@aol.com or 762-445-1006.

LADIES OF THE CHURCH will meet for lunch on March 16th, at the Iron Fork, at 11:30.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Contact Susie Pressley at jimmiepressley@yahoo.com or 404-6307592.

The liturgical season of Lent invites intentional reflection and self-examination. Confession and repentance are inescapable components of that taking stock. "Keeping a holy Lent" helps us to reprioritize our lives, making sure our professed Christian values align with our tangible, real-world actions. There are Lenten Weekly Devotionals available in the Narthex. Rev Ford G'segner

SERVICE MUSIC AND LITURGY

Come, Christians, Join To Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing; Alleluia! Amen! Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen! Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice; Praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

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.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only on 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.

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. Amen.

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be; World without end. Amen, Amen*

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, For ever and ever. Amen.

Lord, help us to share Your sorrow and grief at our sin. During this Lenten season, grant us the courage to look honestly into the gloom of our sin so that we might see anew the brilliance of Your glorious promise and grace to us in Christ. In Christ's Name, Amen. Tim Keller

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	Nancy Gloege
Ed Lewis	Stephen Jackson
Chris Penna	Bill Corry
Susie Pressley	Nick Thomas

Chris Sandoval, Beth Lewis's son-in-law
Dylan Webb, a friend of the Hinds, who has a brain tumor
Our Session members: Jan Brazier, Cherie Moore, Johnny Satterfield, Noble Usherwood, James Graham,
Pastor Search Committee: Beth Lewis, Duane Blough, Hap Tietjen, Jane Epps, Spencer Hinds

Prayers for Lent:

Holy One, whom alone we worship and serve, Your Word and Spirit sustain us in the wilderness. Keep us faithful in times of struggle and testing so that we may enter into Your glorious realm with Jesus Christ our Savior. Book of Common Worship, PCUSA

Lord our God, blessed is the One who comes in Your name! Gather us in Your gentle presence as a hen shelters her brood beneath her wings. Finish the work You have begun in us so that we may show Your glory; through Jesus Christ our peace. BOCW, PCUSA

Life is an onion and one cries while peeling it. French Proverb

Life's a garden... dig it. Joe Dirt

Life is a gift. Use it. Rev Paul Matthews

Life is hard; it's harder if you're stupid. John Wayne

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones. Proverbs 17:22

