

First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro

February 4, 2018 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Music Director: Jean Gómez Elder of the Month Noble Usherwood

Guest Preacher Rev. John Lamsma

PRELUDE

WELCOME

* GREETING EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

INTROIT # 267 *Come Christians. Join to Sing*

* CALL TO WORSHIP *From Psalm 147*

Praise the LORD.

How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him!

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Sing to the LORD with grateful praise. Make music to our God on the harp.

The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.

* PRAYER OF ADORATION

Most holy God, the earth is filled with Your glory, and in Your presence angels stand in awe. Enlarge our vision that we may recognize Your power at work in Your Son and join the apostles and prophets as heralds of Your saving word. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

* HYMN # 821 *My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep From Singing)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires, known, and from whom no secrets are hid: You know our sin. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Christ our Lord. *Silent prayer*

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **People: Amen.**

* GLORIA PATRI *(insert)*

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 54:9-14 Pew Bible p. 684

Psalm Psalm 126 Pew Bible p. 572

New Testament Lesson I Peter 2:1-10 Pew Bible p. 237

Anthem *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent* Choir

Sermon *Living Stones* Rev. John Lamsma

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

* COMMUNION HYMN # 396 *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(insert)*

OFFERING

Invitation to give

Offertory

* Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Comfort and relieve, O Lord, all who are in trouble, sorrow, poverty, sickness and grief, especially those known to us, whom we name before You in silence

Inspire those who lead Your church with Your power. Keep us in unity and peace. Grant that all who trust You may obey your Word and live together in love. Amen

* HYMN # 306 vs 1, 2 *Blest Be The Tie That Binds*

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 306 vs 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Welcome Rev. John Lamsma to our pulpit today.

VALENTINE'S DAY COVERED DISH will be next Sunday. Special FPOG fried chicken and delicious dessert will be provided so bring your best side dish and join us right after church.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets at 9:45 in the Fellowship Building. Our current study is "The Early Church". No homework. No stress.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: We meet on the third Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 2:30. All ladies are invited to join us for the meeting.

LADIES: We will restart our fun luncheons this month at the Iron Fork on Friday, February 16, at 11:30. Food, fun, fellowship, fried green tomatoes what more could you ask? Please call or email Julie at jujuthorp@hotmail.com or 404-906-1382.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: We knit and crochet shawls to be given to those in need of our remembrance. To learn more or to help, contact Brooke Hinds at 763-445-1006.

FLOWERS: To provide flowers for the church please see the list in the narthex or speak to Eileen Usherwood or Ann Cory.

Shorter Catechism

Q. 96. What is the Lord's Supper? A. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament in which bread and wine are given and received as Christ directed to proclaim His death. Those who receive the Lord's Supper in the right way share in His body and blood with all His benefits, not physically but by faith, and become spiritually stronger and grow in grace.

Q. 97. What is the right way to receive the Lord's Supper? A. The right way to receive the Lord's Supper, is to examine ourselves; our knowledge to discern the Lord's body, whether our faith feeds on Him, and whether we have repentance, love, and new obedience so that we may not come in the wrong way and eat and drink judgment on ourselves.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance and love. In preparing to receive Christ in this Sacrament, the believer is to confess sin and brokenness, to seek reconciliation with God and neighbor, and to trust in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may come to the Table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus. (Book of Order, W-2.4011a).

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, it is now and ever shall be; World without end Amen, Amen*

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 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.

The Christian never prays alone. The Father listens, the Holy Ghost helps, and the Son intercedes.

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	Bill Cory
Mildred Tietjen	Chris Penna
Nancy Gloege	Ed Lewis
Stephen Jackson	Chris Sandoval, Beth Lewis's son-in-law
Susie Pressley	Nick Thomas

The family of Mike Feemster, friends of Jan and Alex Brazier. Mike passed away this week.

The Pastor Search Committee. Jane Epps, Beth Lewis, Duane Blough and Hap Tietjen.

Our Session: Noble Usherwood, James Graham, Johnnie Satterfield, Brooke Hinds, Jan Brazier, Cheri Moore.

Gracious God, because we are not strong enough to pray as we should, You provide Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit to intercede for us in power. In this confidence we ask You to accept this, our prayer for those in authority over us. Guide the rulers of the nations. Move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambition, and bow to Your sovereign rule. Inspire them to strive for peace and justice, that all Your children may dwell secure, free of war and injustice.

We ask Thee, our Father, to bless our Session, Your servants who give themselves to the service of Your church, that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in the name of Him who came, not to be served but to serve, for it is in His name we pray. Amen

From Psalm 69 *I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.*

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of Your steadfast love, answer me. With Your faithful help rescue me from sinking in the mire;

Do not let the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the Pit close its mouth over me. Answer me, O LORD, for Your steadfast love is good; according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.

Do not hide your face from your servant, for I am in distress—make haste to answer me. But I am lowly and in pain; let Your salvation, O God, protect me. I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

THE GREAT THANSGIVING

Leader : The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Lift up you hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Eternal God, holy and mighty, it is truly right and our greatest joy to give You thanks and praise, and to worship You in every place where Your glory abides.

In Your wisdom, You made all things and sustain them by Your power.

Therefore we praise You, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of Your name.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. In Jesus, born of Mary, Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. He lived as one of us, knowing joy and sorrow. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, opened blind eyes, broke bread with outcasts and sinners, and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor.

Dying on the cross, He gave himself for the life of the world. Rising from the grave, He won for us victory over death. Seated at Your right hand, He leads us to eternal life. We praise You that Christ now reigns with You in glory, and will come again to make all things new.

We give You thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before He died, took bread, and after giving thanks to You, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is My body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me. In the same way He took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in My blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of Me.

Remembering Your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from Your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate His dying and rising, as we await the day of His coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to You to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to Your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these Your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By Your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

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.